

NEWS IN BRIEF

Children 'put at risk in mountain hike'

Four adult walkers who took three children onto the Glencoe mountains have been criticised by a police chief. One child quickly tired on Monday's expedition to climb the 2,800ft Beinn Mhic Chasaig in Glen Etive and was taken back by two adults. A rescue team found the rest of the party in serious difficulty at the bottom of the snowline at 2,000ft five hours later. Harvey Sussock, 51, a company director, his sister-in-law Cornelia Guebler, 38, Alastair Sussock, 7, and Sarah Guebler, 6, all from Glasgow, were rescued unhurt by an RAF helicopter.

Chief Insp John MacFadzean of Lochaber said: "Had it not been for the response of the rescue team, the consequences could have been disastrous." He said the 1pm starting time was too late for a climb which, even under normal conditions, would have been too arduous for the children, who were dressed in anoraks and rubber-soled boots. The adults were not carrying a torch or bivouac gear and had not left notice of their route. "We could have had a major problem on our hands and even loss of life." He said the case showed that people were ignoring repeated warnings about the dangers of mountains in winter.

Spiro suicide evidence

Recordings on micro-cassettes discovered close to the body of Ian Spiro, the former British spy, in the southern California desert in November, indicate that he committed suicide, according to a San Diego newspaper. Mr Spiro had died from cyanide poisoning and his wife and three children were found shot dead at the family home outside San Diego. Police have remained sceptical of reports that Mr Spiro had been killed because of his alleged links with hostage negotiations. The report in yesterday's *Union Tribune* says the tapes disclose that he was in an "unstable" frame of mind, muttering about financial difficulties, and indicate that he committed suicide after killing his family.

Rushdie visit warning

France could damage its relations with Iran by inviting Salman Rushdie to visit, the official IRNA news agency said yesterday. France has said it would welcome and protect Rushdie, who was sentenced to death for allegedly slandering Islam in *The Satanic Verses*. The French move could only "strain political and economic relations", the news agency said, noting that the volume of trade between Iran and France totalled \$3.5 billion (£2.3 million) last year, making France one of Tehran's largest trading partners.

Two shot in nightclub

Two men were wounded when a gunman opened fire with a shotgun in a crowded nightclub. One was hit in the knee and the other in the arm and side. The gunman escaped, despite being pursued by customers at the Mayflower club in Bradford, West Yorkshire. The injured men were detained in Bradford Royal Infirmary, where their condition last night was described as comfortable. Detectives believe that the attack early on Sunday, by a man in his 20s or 30s, may be linked to drugs or prostitution.

More pets abandoned

Against the national trend, the number of unwanted pets taken in by Battersea Dogs' Home in south London is the lowest for a decade. Josephine Henderson, the manager, said that fewer than 13,000 dogs had been brought in during 1992, 1,500 below the 1991 figure. But the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said that nationally more unwanted animals were being abandoned than ever before, mainly because people could not afford to neuter their animals.

Blow to transplant boy

The home of Stuart Masters, three, who needs a life-saving liver and bowel transplant in America, has been wrecked by vandals. Supplies from a medical cupboard, including special food, were tipped over the floor at the house in Shoeburyness, Essex, and vital intravenous feeding equipment smashed. His cot mattress was slashed, toys were cut up or sprayed with paint and taps left running. Shelley Masters, 24, his mother, said: "We have lost everything and will have to start again in new accommodation."



Wave of discontent: harbours at Lossiemouth, above, and Peterhead were blocked yesterday by fishermen protesting against the Sea Fish Conservation Bill, which they expect to impose severe restrictions in 1993 (Ray Clancy writes). The south

harbour at Peterhead, Grampian, Europe's largest white-fish port, was blocked by boats carrying banners saying "Save our fishing fleet" and spelling out their grievances. Banners at Lossiemouth criticised John Major. Under the

bill, which received royal assent just before Christmas, the fishermen expect to be ordered to keep their boats tied up in port for up to 190 days a year. They say it is unfair because the restrictions will not apply to French and Spanish boats

that fish in British waters. "We want to show the government that we are not going to take this lying down. We are not going to sit in the harbour while the French and Spanish can fish as much as they want. That is discrimination."

Peter Bruce, a Peterhead skipper, said: "At Lossiemouth, where further protests are planned this week, skipper Dennis Slater said: "We want to show the strength of feeling against the persecution of the industry."

Smith to toughen his 'softly softly' image over union block vote

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith is to speed up modernisation of the Labour party to rebut criticism of his "softly softly" style of leadership, but he has refused to be stampeded into quick fixes to win short-term support.

The Labour leader will make clear in the new year that he has no intention of backtracking on the pledge, made during July's party leadership campaign, to loosen the trade unions' grip on power within the party.

Unions hold 87.2 per cent of the conference votes, with a reduction to 70 per cent already agreed for next autumn's annual gathering.

He has remained silent during the party's review of the unions' voting rights, but Mr Smith is expected to emphasise the importance of diluting union influence while keeping Labour's traditional "sentimental" links with organised labour. The review will report to the national executive next month.

After leaks of its interim report indicated that the

citing his priorities for 1993 as modernising the party machine and espousing his basic beliefs in a series of philosophical speeches. He will try to project Labour as a party which cares about the high achievers as well as the underprivileged.

His advisers believe that in spelling out exactly what he stands for, Mr Smith can exploit complaints about the lack of direction and vision of John Major's government.

New committees are beginning work on policies for the economy, Europe and the constitution. The commission on social justice, chaired by Sir Gordon Bonn, will start to take evidence in January and the Plant commission on electoral reform will complete its work later in the year.

Lord Plant's recommendations are likely to be handed to the national executive in February, with early indications that he will recommend a modest move to a proportional representation system of voting for elections to Westminster.

John Smith is sceptical about PR, but he is likely to approve placing the report on next autumn's conference agenda. He is said to worry that agonising on voting reform too near a general election will lay the party open to Tory gibes that Labour believes it cannot win an overall majority under the present system.

■ A more forthright Labour leader will emerge in the new year, committed to speeding up modernisation of the party



Lamont: recession is hiding healthy trends

Decline is myth, says Lamont

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN LAMONT, Chancellor of the Exchequer, makes a bullish defence of Britain's manufacturing industry today, insisting that some people are too quick to run the country down.

In a foreword to a Conservative research paper, he argues that its figures disprove "self-damaging myths" about a decline in Britain's production power.

The study says that manufacturing exports rose by 66 per cent between 1981 and 1991, more than in the other six big economies, and that imports of manufactured goods rose by less than in the other countries.

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John Smith is sceptical about PR, but he is likely to approve placing the report on next autumn's conference agenda. He is said to worry

Parents of murdered girl believe she knew killer

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE parents of Johanna Young, the 14-year-old girl found dead on Saturday in a water-filled pit, said yesterday that they believed that their daughter knew her murderer. The couple appealed for witnesses to come forward.

Robert Young, Johanna's father, who described her as "a very sensible girl", said that he had warned his daughter about strangers and that he was certain she would not "have gone off with just anyone".

At a press conference at Dereham police station in Norfolk, Mr and Mrs Young said that they thought that Johanna was staying at the home of her boy friend, Ryan Firman, or with another friend when she did not come home last Wednesday.

The next day, Christmas eve, Mr Young went to a newsagent's shop from which Johanna did a paper round and realised that his daughter was missing.

"We had not had an argument the night she left," he said. "We just thought she had gone out to meet friends. Normally she would be back around 10 o'clock, but it was a terrible foggy night and we assumed she had gone to a friend's house or to Ryan's."

Two days earlier Johanna had split up with Mr Firman, 17, a meat factory butcher. He has been interviewed and released by police. Johanna's father said that he hoped to

speak to Mr Firman soon, adding that he and his wife had approved of him, describing him as "a well-mannered boy". He also said that neither he nor his wife had realised that Johanna had split up until Christmas eve.

Mr Young said that after he realised his daughter was missing, he searched her bedroom and discovered that she had packed all her Christmas cards in a box, along with the Christmas decorations, a move that he considered unusual.

Carol Young, Johanna's mother, broke down in tears as she gave a warning to other parents: "For God's sake, make sure you know where your daughters are going. I wish to hell I had done that."

Johanna's half-naked body was found in a water-filled gravel pit at the end of a lover's lane in Winton, Norfolk, on Saturday night, three days after she went missing.

She had been sexually assaulted and had died from drowning rather than from the severe head injuries she had suffered.

Police have not been able to specify the time of death because of the freezing water temperature, but hope that detailed scientific tests will determine the exact time.

Det Supt Michael Cole of Norfolk CID, who is leading the investigation, agreed with Johanna's parents that she probably knew her murderer but said that he could not rule out the possibility that she had been abducted by a sex killer.

Mr Cole said that her killer may have had local knowledge to have used the lane to the gravel pit, a mile from Johanna's home.

The police have discounted an apparent sighting of Johanna in a fish-and-chip shop in Norwich, 14 miles away, the day after she disappeared. Three people whom the police said they wished to interview came forward after descriptions were circulated by the media.

Johanna: had been told to avoid strangers



Frequent victim: WPC Lesley Harrison, who has spent months off work recovering from earlier attacks

Knifing is policewoman's fourth injury

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE policewoman stabbed as she confronted a man in Liverpool on Sunday night

had spent months off work recovering from three earlier injuries. After the third incident, WPC Lesley Harrison, 29, who joined the force five weeks ago, said: "Some officers go through their whole service without a single injury. I am just unlucky."

Supt Graham Barker, who is leading the investigation into the attack, spoke of "the extreme bravery shown by Lesley and her colleagues in

dealing with this incident."

In December last year, WPC Harrison needed five weeks off work when she was beaten up by a teenager close to Sunday's attack. Before

she dislocated a shoulder while chasing a burglar, which forced her to spend five months off work, and in 1990 she was hit on the head by a brick in Toxteth.

In the latest incident, her heart was punctured in a stabbing attack after she was called to a reported burglary in the Portman Road area of

the city. Her attacker hijacked a taxi but was arrested half a mile away. The taxi driver had sneaked into the back and chased the man when he abandoned the car.

The policewoman's older brother, Dave Harrison, said yesterday after visiting her at Royal Liverpool University Hospital, where she is in intensive care: "Lesley always wanted to be in uniform. She loves the job and the people she works with."

Her younger brother Brian, 27, said: "She has been hurt

before but that didn't bother her. Lesley saw being attacked as part and parcel of the job." The family would not pressure her to leave the force.

Assistant Chief Constable Paul Acres said: "This is a sad and stark reminder of the dangers our officers face every day on the streets of Britain. Lesley was seriously injured in 1991 and she knew the dangers but she was not deterred."

Federation's call, page 1

Police chiefs call summit in the shadow of redundancy

By STEWART TENDLER AND RICHARD FORD

BRITAIN'S top police officers will hold a two-day debate about the radical changes to be proposed by the Home Office in a white paper on the future of policing.

The officers will gather in Warwickshire next month to consider tactics for dealing with proposals that could lead to redundancies, possibly including amalgamation of smaller forces and the introduction of central funding.

Reducing the number of forces in England and Wales, currently 43, and the creation of larger merged forces has won support from Home Office staff and some senior police officers. Earlier this month Sir Peter Imbert, the outgoing commissioner of the Metropolitan police, told a Commons select committee that small county forces were not suited to the demands of modern policing.

His successor, Paul Condon, chief constable of Kent, has been more circumspect, insisting that it is of greater importance for police powers to be devolved to local stations that would be able to respond more flexibly to the needs of a particular area.

"There is no magic formula saying there should be ten police forces," he said this month. Mr Condon takes over

the Metropolitan force next month.

The Association of Chief Police Officers, which represents the 250 most senior officers in England and Wales, has already begun research into the subject of reducing the number of forces.

It is also studying whether resources such as computers could be shared by forces.

One suggestion earlier this year was for the creation of forces that matched the boundaries of Crown Prosecution Service areas, which are to be cut from 31 to 13 in October. Such a big reduction would meet strong opposition from police authorities and councillors concerned at the

loss of the essentially local nature of policing. That argument could be countered if individual stations and officers were given more power to manage resources and act on local needs.

Other options to be considered by the government include introduction of central funding for police forces, replacing the present system under which costs are met by the Home Office and local authorities.

That change would overcome the problem of linking funding to the number of uniformed officers recruited, which discourages chief constables from employing cheaper civilian staff to carry out certain duties.

Police forces would each receive an annual budget from Whitehall, but there is concern that this might not provide the flexibility needed to deal with extensive investigations such as the Yorkshire Ripper enquiry. The budgets could be tied to measurements of performance being set by the Audit Commission for local government.

The white paper, expected to be published within the next six months, could also lead to changes in police officers' retirement age, pensions and the disciplinary code.

Condon: no magic formula for change

Barcode toy boosts grocery bill

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SALES of anything from soups to packet noodles may soon rise dramatically because of a new high-technology toy that can be powered by barcodes.

Just when parents were learning to share their children with Super Mario, Sonic the Hedgehog and other computer-games characters, Barcode Bartle is about to hit the market.

In Japan, the toy has become the best-selling playground game. In 18 months, it has outstripped Nintendo's Game Boy and Sega by selling over a million units, the makers say.

Players acquire points to boost their "attacking, defending or life-force power" by passing barcodes over a reader on the toy.

The company makes special codes for games such as CB-Rocket or Wizard-3. However, Japanese children have found that they can also power the toy by using barcodes on supermarket goods. Store managers brace themselves for waves of parents clearing shelves of previously low-selling goods at the behest of offspring. "We understand that stores sold out of a brand of noodles after child-

ren discovered its barcode was particularly powerful," a spokesman for Tomy, the company that is to launch the toy next month, said.

Barcodes have become the equivalent of conkers, the company claims. Children use their champion code, perhaps snipped from a sandwich carton, and pit it against a schoolmate's, perhaps from a chocolate wrapper. Stores run competitions for champion codes.

The toy, to be launched at Toy Fair 1993, at Earls Court, west London, is expected to be on sale in May at £30 to £40.

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CFC phase-out endangers thousands of businesses

■ The speeding up of measures to tackle global warming could leave traders out in the cold on Britain's high streets

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of thousands of high street shops and businesses may face severe difficulties over the next two years because of the accelerated phase-out of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), the chemicals that have been destroying the Earth's protective ozone layer.

New supplies of CFCs, hitherto essential for refrigeration and for some forms of dry cleaning, will be cut by 85 per cent throughout the European Community in the next 12 months, and will have disappeared completely by the end of 1994, in an international timetable that has been speeded up twice in the last five weeks, and has largely passed unnoticed by businesses.

Existing CFC stocks can still be used after the phase-out date, so the 30 million domestic refrigerators in Britain can continue for the rest of their natural lives. But new supplies will disappear, mainly affecting commercial refrigeration servicing. From now on, pubs, clubs and hotels, supermarkets and off-licences, butchers, fishmongers and grocers may find that the chemicals necessary to service their present CFC-based refrigeration systems are suddenly no longer available as demand rapidly outstrips supply.

Breakdowns in fridges, display cabinets and cold stores may be irreparable. To continue, operators will have to buy new non-CFC systems, which will not only be expensive but may not be quickly obtainable because of the demand. Refrigeration industry leaders fear that businesses may founder.

Mr Alger is calling for a national campaign of CFC-recycling and leakage prevention to conserve stocks and prevent escape of the ozone-damaging chemicals into the atmosphere pending the gradual introduction of ozone-benign substitutes such as HFC 134a, developed by ICI.

Nearly three-quarters of the CFCs supplied annually to the British market, more than 4,000 tonnes, goes to replacing leaks. Twenty per cent of all the CFCs in British commercial refrigeration systems leak every year.

Dry cleaning, in which CFCs are widely used as solvents, will also be affected by the phase-out. Although large chains such as Sketchley can cope with the multi-million pound expense, hundreds of small independent firms may face bankruptcy because of the £30,000 to £40,000 cost of buying new CFC-free machines. Other sectors of industry once dependent on CFCs, such as aerosol manufacturing, foam blowing and electronics cleaning have already found substitute chemicals or systems.

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE river that was the setting for the best-selling book *Tarka the Otter* has been declared safe for otters once more.

The animals have repopulated 80 per cent of the catchment area of the river Torridge in north Devon, including some places where they have not been seen for many years, according to the Tarka Project, which includes Devon County Council, four district councils and several wildlife conservation groups.

There had been fears that pesticides and pollution might eliminate otters from the Torridge as they have done from most of the country. North Devon is the sleek and shy animal's last stronghold in England. Populations survive in other parts of the West Country, in Northumberland and in Scotland and Wales, but only about 15,000 otters are believed to be left in Britain.

Henry Williamson wrote

that signs of otter population, such as droppings and river-bank mudslides, had been found in a number of sites, and even sightings of the animals had increased.

A recent assessment by the Tarka Project has declared the Torridge's otter population healthy and thriving. Steve Crummary, project officer, said

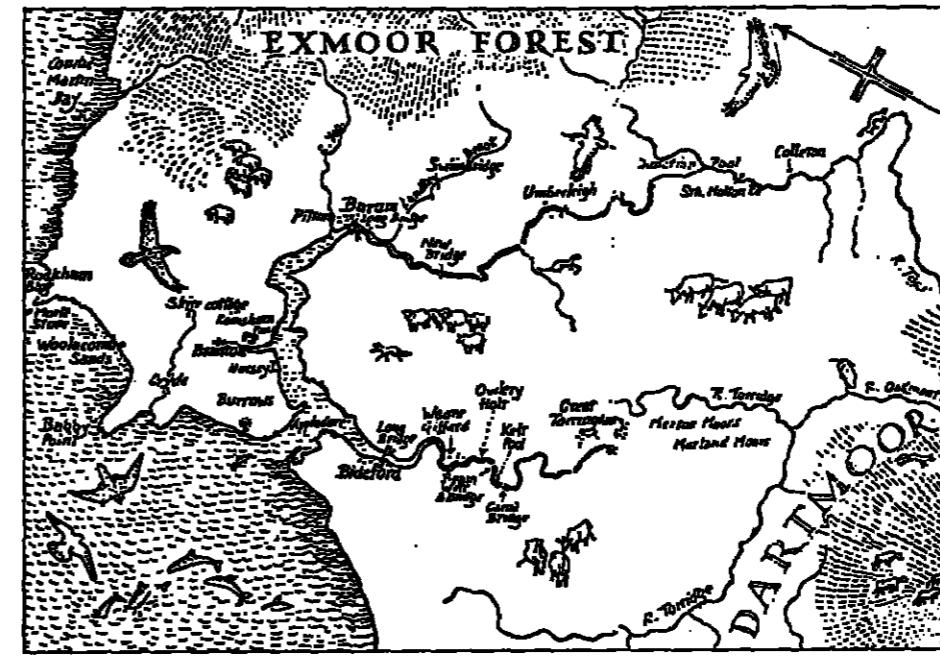
180-mile Tarka trail and a Tarka railway line (the British Rail service between Exeter and Barnstaple). It is doubtful, however, if visitors would ever glimpse one of the elusive animals in the wild as they are so timid.

Leading article, page 13



Timid beauty: despite its return to the cleaned-up river Torridge in Devon, visitors are unlikely to catch a glimpse of the elusive otter

Otters flourish in Tarka's old haunt



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The way it isn't
CHAS BROWN



Next Year in Full
Part II
March 2: Michael Winner films *The Tales of Beatrix Potter*. "It follows Beatrix Potter's vision to the letter," he says, announcing Charles Bronson as an angry Jemima Puddle-duck hellbent on revenge.

March 12: Lord Tebbit calls for closer party unity on Europe. "And that includes all those lily-livered idiots who have been fooled by Maastricht".

March 15: After further cuts and delays, the British Library finds a new home, a converted two-car garage in Ealing. "More intimate surroundings with scaled-down choice for greater selectivity will greatly aid the general reader," explains the heritage secretary, Peter Brooke.

March 19: Sinéad O'Connor scandalises the rock world by appearing live on stage, singing a selection of songs and departing with a bow and a "Thank you".

March 24: Tina Brown is appointed as Worldwide Mother Superior of the enclosed order of Ursuline nuns. "I have a strong respect for the Ursuline tradition and I don't plan to change it," she says, "but in this day and age it's ridiculous that so few of them are going to disco's, buying the latest videos and generally letting their hair down."

April 9: The Archbishop of Canterbury calls for greater Christian understanding towards the Devil. "Let's spare a thought for poor old Satan," he says. "He may not be such a bad bloke — after all, I've heard he's a keen Arsenal supporter. Pass the pickle, there's a lad."

April 15: Gerald Ratner gains a new job as the manager of a fish farm. "It's total carp," he explains.

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Muslims mass troops to break Sarajevo siege

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BOSNIAN Muslims are massing troops and weapons outside Sarajevo for a "major offensive" aimed at breaking the Serb siege of the city. Fred Eckhard, the spokesman for the international peace conference in Geneva, said Geneva.

In Sarajevo, which is nearing nine months under siege and enduring a lack of running water, electric power, telephones and adequate food, there were indications that government forces were fighting back with increasing success against the rebel Serbs. A British spokesman in Vitez said intelligence sources in central Bosnia spoke of a "push" by the Muslims and Croats in the past two weeks which had forced the Serbs back by up to 12 miles.

Mr Eckhard said that the UN protection force in Yugoslavia has been reporting a "significant build-up in gov-

ernment personnel and arms on the Igman mountains surrounding Sarajevo. The concern is that there may be a major offensive in preparation by the Bosnian government to regain lost territory, or possibly even to try to liberate Sarajevo."

He was speaking during meetings between representatives of the Bosnian factions and other leaders from the former Yugoslavia with Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the conference co-chairmen, and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general.

On Saturday, Bosnia's three factual leaders — Muslim President Izetbegovic, Mate Boban for the Croats, and Radovan Karadzic for the

groundwork that is there for an agreement, seize it, run with it."

Snow fell round the central Bosnian town of Vitez yesterday, raising fears that the onset of winter could hinder the flow of aid to refugees in the region. It was the first time this winter that snow had stayed on the ground, but except on high or exposed ground it was only two inches deep. There were no immediate reports of difficulties in bringing relief convoys into the area, which has so far enjoyed unseasonably mild weather.

The first UN military forces to be deployed in Macedonia arrived in the former Yugoslav republic yesterday. The 33 Canadian troops, led by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gepur, are the first of 150 Canadians who will be on guard in Macedonia until a full mixed Scandinavian battalion is deployed there in mid-February. The troops were from a Canadian battalion previously intended to be deployed in Banja Luka, the Serb headquarters town in northern Bosnia. After weeks of fruitless negotiation, the UN last week abandoned its efforts to go there.

The UN troops were invited in by Kiro Gligorov, the Macedonian president, in case the tension in other parts of the former Balkan federation spills over into his republic.

Macedonia has remained peaceful but it fears being drawn in if violence breaks out between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in neighbouring Kosovo.

Albania, another neighbour to the west, has pledged it would send forces to help the Albanians, and Macedonia would be its likely route.

United Nations civil affairs personnel and one military observer, all unarmed, have been in Macedonia since December 15.

This is just an example of what we will begin to see in many areas of Sarajevo," said Peter Kessler, a spokesman from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Shell and sniper fire, though relatively light in recent weeks, still claims Sarajevoans. On Monday morning 50 family and friends gathered at what was once a football field to add four more wooden grave markers — there is no more stone — to the sea of markers spreading across Sarajevo's open spaces.

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wood to heat one room for a month costs about £75, seven or eight times an average monthly salary.

Magdalena Mitasevska, 34, a biochemist, lives 100 yards from a front line near Hero's Square, newly renamed in honour of all those killed protecting the community from Serbs on the hill to the south. Like all Sarajevoans now, she has no electricity and no water. Her candles were used up long ago. Ms Mitasevska was lucky enough to be able to afford a small wood stove made out of thin aluminium.

But her salary is not even enough to buy bread each day, and wood is out of the question. "We break up our own furniture and we use that," she said.

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City's icy shroud envelops first elderly, then young

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

A THIN layer of snow blanketed Sarajevo yesterday as a UN official said that elderly people in the city were dying because of the lack of fuel for heating. The official said that children would be the next group to die.

The temperature yesterday morning was -7C — up four degrees from Sunday morning. In a city without heating and with few windows left, there is little difference between temperatures inside many buildings and those outside. Sarajevo's overworked grave diggers are having difficulty because the ground is frozen.

The city's trees have been decimated by Sarajevoans looking for fuel to keep them alive. Once verdant parks are now full of tree stumps. Abandoned and shelled buildings are being picked over by women, children and elderly men scavenging for firewood. In the city, enough

wood to heat one room for a month costs about £75, seven or eight times an average monthly salary.

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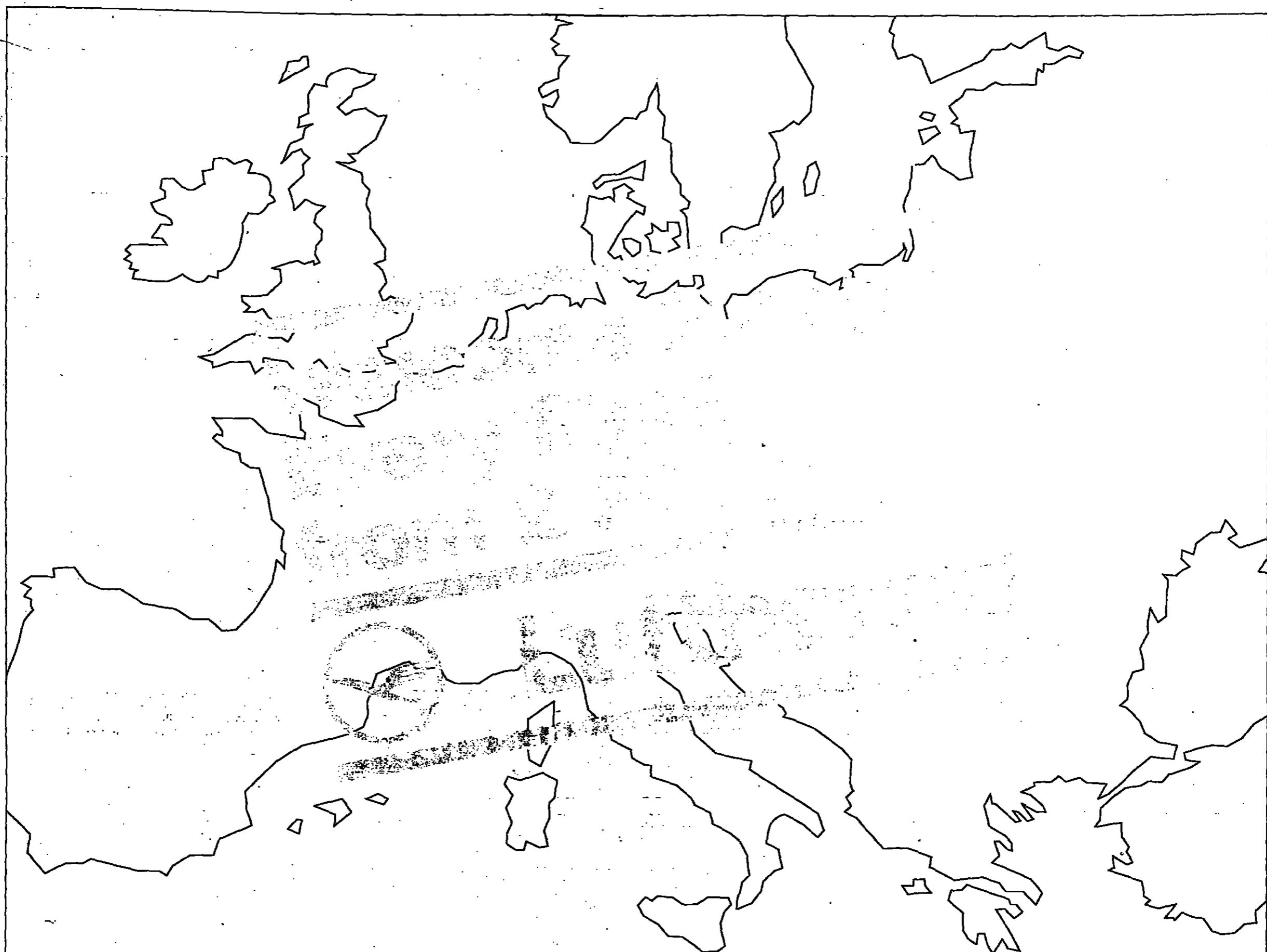
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Lufthansa

Rally signals end of Somali fighting as warlords embrace

■ As barriers are lifted and 10,000 people in Mogadishu rejoice, national reconstruction is the men of war's proclaimed objective

BY SAMIR DOUAHII OF AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MOGADISHU AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE leaders of Mogadishu's two warring factions embraced before 10,000 of their jubilant countrymen yesterday and proclaimed an end to Somalia's two-year civil war.

As General Ali Mahdi Muhammad and General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the capital's rival warlords, united in a peace move, thousands waving branches celebrated the dismantling of the "green line" war boundary dividing the battered city. "It's the happiest day of my life," Abdel Nour Said, 27, said. "We have had enough lessons from the civil war," another resident said as the two leaders smilingly shook hands to the crowd's applause. Boys scrambled into trees for a better view and chanting women in gaudy headscarves urged the sides to unite. "We don't want any more guns or fighting," one smiling participant shouted.

The two leaders, the heads of rival wings of the United Somali Congress, demonstrated their reconciliation at the



public rally called to express their commitment to the American-brokered peace accord reached at the weekend. Shortly before the rally, the US Marines had shot dead a Somali in a clash near the airport.

Thousands of Somalis had massed outside the parliament building where General Aidid arrived first, followed a few minutes later by General Ali Mahdi, the interim president.

Newfound allies: Ali Mahdi Muhammad, right, and Muhammad Farrah Aidid, rival Somali warlords, join hands at a Mogadishu unity rally

As the general helped his once sworn enemy onto the platform, the crowd went wild, clapping, dancing and singing for joy. Hand in hand, the leaders called for unity in a nation that had descended into bloody anarchy, leaving tens of thousands dead from starvation and disease since the overthrow of Mohamed Siad Barre, the former dictator, in January 1991.

In separate speeches built around a single theme, the two leaders pronounced an end to their conflict and spoke of reconstruction and rebirth. There were moving scenes as inhabitants who had been separated during the strife found each other again for the first time.

All the physical barriers which had kept certain districts and key access roads inaccessible since fighting engulfed Mogadishu in November 1991, were coming down. An Agence France-Presse journalist at the scene said the green line, a free-fire zone that had divided the city between

the north, controlled by General Ali Mahdi's men, and the south, by General Aidid's partisans, was now passable without military escort.

Mecca Avenue, which had been closed since the conflict reached the capital and had come to symbolise the gulf between the two camps, was reopened to traffic. Demonstrators who were making their way to the rally had been able to use it.

In the virtual absence of mass communication in Mogadishu, a peace march along the green line was judged the most effective way of informing the population of the

weekend accord and of the two leaders' willingness to work for its implementation. As the demonstration got under way, American marines — members of a United Nations-mandated international force to restore order — were patrolling the streets of north Mogadishu for the first time since they landed on December 9.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Ritter, for the marines, said the new patrols would be out day and night searching for heavy weapons belonging to renegade bands not aligned with either of the two main factions. An American source said at least two temporary operations bases would be set up in north Mogadishu.

In the incident at the airport, a marine guard shot dead a Somali gunman as he fled with a camera stolen from a British television crew. The crew from the cable network Visnews was accosted outside the airport by two gunmen. One held a pistol to the head of Jimi Matthews, the cameraman, while another took the camera. One was killed as he fled, but the other managed to escape. Leon Malherbe, a soundman, was cut in the elbow by shrapnel. Mr Malherbe and Mr Matthews were shot at, but not hurt, three

days ago as they drove from the airport into town. The next day Mr Malherbe was cut by a child with a razor at the port entrance.

American and French troops have killed at least five Somalis in clashes since the task force began arriving in Mogadishu. The past few days have seen a spate of attacks at the airport and harbour, both heavily secured by the task force.

In north-central Somalia, 400 American and Canadian troops landed yesterday in the bush town of Belet Huen, securing the final link in the humanitarian network to feed

the country's starving. Belet Huen was the last of eight towns within Somalia's famine belt to be targeted for joint military force support.

Chief Warrant Officer Eric Carlson said the troops began landing in transport helicopters shortly after dawn and encountered no resistance. He said helicopter flights bringing aid workers and food shipments would land to set up a distribution grid. Colonel Ritter said the strength of the American-led force in Somalia and on board ships offshore last night was 23,000, with a target of 28,000 by the first week in January.

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Kurds and Shias fear they will be target of Saddam's wrath



Saddam: Kurds say UN played into his hands

ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL AND MICHAEL THEODOROU IN NICOSIA

THE "no-fly" zone imposed over north and south Iraq has brought little relief to President Saddam Hussein's victims. In the north, Kurdish leaders say he has intensified a war of attrition to force his way back into their haven. In the south, Shia Muslims say artillery bombardments, mass arrests and house demolitions continue to make their lives miserable.

Some Shias are concerned that the shooting down of an Iraqi MiG south of the 32nd parallel on Sunday could increase the Iraqi leader's wrath towards them. "He is too weak to retaliate against America, but he'll take it out on us," said Wadih Muhammad of the Al-Dawa party.

North of the 36th parallel, Kurds say that Baghdad is tightening a military and economic blockade designed to persuade them that their hardships are too high a price to pay for quasi-independence.

After the no-fly zone was introduced on August 27, Saddam changed tactics and used armour, artillery, and infantry to maintain control over the area south of the 32nd parallel, home to most of Iraq's Shias, who comprise 55 per cent of the population.

Dr Muhammad said: "The ban at least ended the attacks by helicopter gunships, but since then the Shias have been under constant artillery shelling. Saddam's Repub-

lican Guards and plainclothes security men have arrested thousands and killed hundreds. They're also demolishing houses. The situation is worst in the cities — Basra, Nasiriyah and Amarah."

Baghdad has curbed supplies to the south. While this is not as severe as the embargo on the Kurdish north, Dr Muhammad said hospitals in the exclusion zone were short of medicines, and there was less food in the markets than in the mainly Sunni areas of central Iraq.

A canal project to drain the southern marshes, which begin at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, has made the area more accessible to Iraqi armour and robbed many Shia rebels and refugees of a hiding place. This month Iraq inau-

gurated the "Saddam river", which it said was a "well-irrigated artery that will renew the life of our people" by draining the marshes and providing irrigation. The 350-mile waterway connects Baghdad with Basra, making the previously impenetrable southern area accessible to armoured divisions.

Despite Iraqi offensives, the Iranian-based opposition groups claim the Shia rebels are well organised and motivated. Travellers from Iraq dispute this. "The opposition in the south has been mostly crushed in the last two months. There are isolated bands of fighters cut off from each other with poor communications and co-ordination," one Iraqi exile said.

In the north, Kurdish suffer-

ing in the severe winter has been sharpened by interference with relief supplies. Saboteurs have bombed 23 lorries laden with aid, and the UN has defused other devices planted, they suspect, while convoys have been using highways controlled by Baghdad. This caused the UN to cease further relief operations until Iraq undertook to guarantee its safety.

Iraqi troops are massing along the border with the Kurdish north and are being reinforced with heavy artillery, according to a spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party. The aim appears less to launch an attack than to undermine further the Kurds' attempts at self-government. To many Iraqi Kurds, the UN has played straight into Saddam's hands. They are bitter over

the memorandum of understanding signed by Jan Eliasson, the Swedish negotiator on the UN's behalf, which, they say, makes the delivery of desperately needed food and fuel dependent on Baghdad's good will.

Life remains hard for the people of northern Iraq, who are enduring their second winter under embargo from the south. Teachers and civil servants earn less than the dinar bus fare it costs them to get to work. Those most at risk from lack of fuel and expensive food, however, are the half million people in places like Kirkuk which remain under Baghdad's control. The Kurdish parliament in Erbil is unlikely to convince the allies to extend the exclusion zone to the 34th parallel, which would enable these

internal refugees to go home. A recent Kurdish delegation to Britain requested that the allies ensure safer passage for aid arriving from Turkey, by creating an air corridor to three existing runways or by securing the land route.

Shortage of fuel remains the worst problem. Entire forests around what were mountain resorts have been cut down for firewood. Baghdad was contracted by the UN supply paraffin, but some of the tankers sent contained water; if gone undetected this would have contaminated the entire underground store of fuel.

In one bit of seasonal cheer, the Turkish parliament voted on Christmas eve to extend the military operation which gives Iraqi Kurds their protective air cover.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Appeal by Collor for trial delay fails

Brasilia: The supreme court chief justice rejected an appeal to delay the impeachment trial of President Collor de Mello due to start today.

The president's lawyers had asked for an additional 30 days to prepare his defence against charges of misconduct. Senator Collor de Mello, who is Brazil's first freely elected president in three decades, was suspended for 180 days pending the outcome of his trial in the Senate. (AP)

Site disputed

Delhi: Demonstrators protesting against a government plan to build a mosque and a temple on the site of the Ayodhya mosque, destroyed by Hindus, clashed with police and hundreds were arrested. Both Muslim and Hindu leaders have voiced opposition to the plan. (AFP)

Leader expelled

Tokyo: Japan's Communist party expelled Sanzo Nosaka, its 100-year-old co-founder, for betraying a comrade who was shot in Moscow in 1939 after being accused of spying for Tokyo. Mr Nosaka said of the decision: "Regrettably, that is the truth." (Reuters)

Blood money

Peking: Police in the Chinese town of Hengshui smashed a 30-strong "vampire" gang who abducted people, forced them to sell their blood and kept the profits. The *Legal Daily* reported. At least 16 people were robbed of seven pints each. (Reuters)



Some Palestinians deported by mistake, Israel admits

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI authorities yesterday began the embarrassing task of reviewing the files of 415 expelled Palestinians after security sources confirmed that at least seven and up to ten of the suspected Hamas supporters were deported to southern Lebanon by mistake.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel said that among those whose deportation orders could be reversed was Bassam Salim al-Sayuri, 16, from the West Bank town of Hebron, who was detained and expelled for nothing more dangerous than writing "nationalist slogans" on a wall.

On Sunday night President Bush, who is in Texas on a hunting holiday, said: "I have heard that it might be some test of our will near the end of my presidency. But those F16s sent the message to [Saddam] pretty clearly."

□ Peking: China last night said Iraq's territory should be respected. It did not want the Gulf situation inflamed by the shooting down of the Iraqi plane. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 13



ians in their makeshift camp at Marj az-Zahour later in the week. However, it seems unlikely, at this stage, that the UN envoy's mission will succeed in breaking the deadlock.

For the first time since the men were expelled in retaliation for a series of attacks on Israeli soldiers and police, Israeli forces said they again came under fire from Palestinian gunmen in the Gaza Strip yesterday. An army spokesman said one soldier was slightly injured near the Dair al-Balah refugee camp. The Israeli government yesterday showed no inclination to back down from its refusal to acknowledge any responsibility for the fate of the Palestinian deportees.

At Rosh Hanikra check-point on Israel's northern border, police blocked a relief convoy organised by Israeli Jews from crossing into Lebanon and delivering badly needed food and medical aid to the Palestinians. About 100 Israeli Arabs, including MPs, Islamic leaders and local council leaders left their cars carrying food parcels but were prevented from walking across the border. They piled the food beside the fence and some knelt to pray, chanting *Allahu Akbar* (God is Great) before turning back.

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Conor Cruise O'Brien

page 12

Khmer Rouge issues warning to UN staff

FROM NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK

THE Khmer Rouge will take United Nations personnel captive if they attempt to monitor UN sanctions due to come into operation against the Khmer Rouge from Friday.

Khieu Samphan, the nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge, said yesterday that the UN transitional authority in Cambodia would not be allowed into Khmer Rouge

territory to observe trading, and he again refused all cooperation with UN peacekeepers.

The security council voted last month to impose sanctions on log exports to Thailand from Khmer Rouge areas and oil imports because of Khmer Rouge refusal to honour the Paris peace accord signed last year to end 13 years of civil war.

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Cubans keep going on stale buns and cat meat

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN HAVANA

THE words of the salsa song *Our Day Is Coming*, are on the lips of all those waiting for political change to ease their deteriorating living conditions in cash-starved communist Cuba. "Everyone is waiting for it, it's coming ... the day of freedom," goes the song by Willy Chirino, a Cuban exiled in Miami since 1961, but today one of the most popular singers in the island. His tapes have been smuggled in and his banned songs are the most listened to on the black market.

Daily life becomes constantly more difficult for the island's 10 million inhabitants. The demise of trade relations with the former Soviet block, which provided Cuba with commercial subsidies in vital goods, including

fuel, has left the Cuban economy in tatters. Cubans are left struggling to "re-solve" — the word most often heard in Havana when people discuss their difficulty in making ends meet. "Resolving" a daily problem means finding petrol, shampoo, soap or mechanical spare parts in a country where none of these items can officially be found in state shops.

The black market has taken over all commercial activity. The communist state which once guaranteed to be the provider of all the people can no longer offer basic services.

President Castro and his economic advisers have performed a herculean task in just keeping the economy

functioning. A blind eye is being turned to the black market, which is blamed on the American economic embargo. Slowly but surely, however, the country is grinding to a halt. Factories are closing and workers stay at home with small state salaries. The average monthly wage is 160 pesos or £27.50 on the black market. Toilet paper no longer exists, except in hotels for tourists. Loaves of bread have been replaced by small stale buns. Each Cuban is allowed one a day. Meat is available only on the black market, with chicken costing 100 pesos.

Sitting in a tiny black market kitchen with Chirino playing on a tape recorder, Albert and Felix wolf down a meal of rice, beans, malanga and stringy pork. Meals are being prepared all over Havana in clandestine kitchens where farm produce stolen from state enterprises is brought from the countryside. Albert says the meat is tough. "It's not cat, is it?" he asks the cook. The offended chef responds: "We don't eat cat here."

Elsewhere cat is very definitely on the menu. Zolla, a teacher, complains that neighbours have eaten several of her cats, after killing them with catapults. She said police had arrested a man with a plastic bag full of minced cat meat.

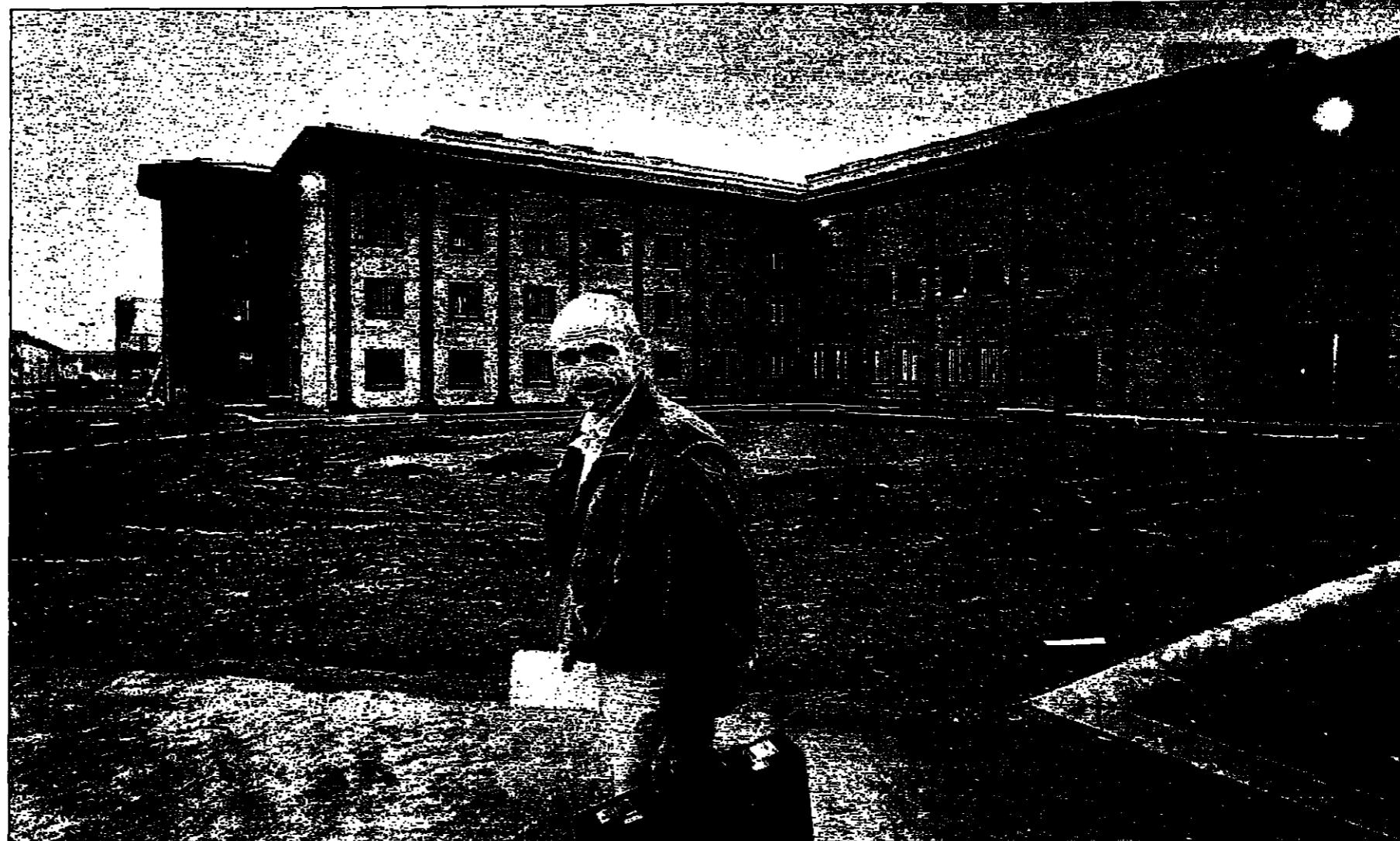
Others tell similar stories. Natalia once had eight cats. "They've eaten six of them," she said, pointing to the neighbours' house. At ten pesos a pound, cat is more affordable than other meats. Police have arrested a woman who reportedly fattened cats and cooked them in take-away casseroles for 35 pesos a time.



Castro turning blind eye to black market

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From next month, the education of prisoners will be in the hands of private contractors. Walter Ellis reports on the pros and cons



Smashing — and rebuilding — the system: (left) the computer room after the riot at Reading remand centre; (above) John McVicar, criminal turned sociologist, at the up-to-date Belmarsh high security prison, in south-east London

Lock 'em up and throw away the key" has not been the philosophy governing United Kingdom penal policy for many years, despite the fact that it continues to resonate with many outside the prison service, and in particular with the victims of crime. After the Boxing day riot at Reading remand centre, in Berkshire, the sentiment may resonate a little louder. But today, the prime objective of penal policy is rehabilitation, with education a key component.

Echoing and adapting the old Jesuit refram, prison educationalists could be said to live by the sentiment, "Give me an offender between 17 and 21 and he or she is less likely to be mine ever again".

Some, looking at the statistics for recidivism, would classify this approach as the triumph of hope over experience. Others would say that it is the only civilised response to criminal behaviour and point to the dramatic success of such as Jimmy Boyle and John McVicar, who each forsook lives of violence for the cells of academic and have ended up as respected social commentators.

Neither view has previously had to deal with the notion of prisons as profit centres. Both the retributive and reform schools of

prison administration have always assumed that deprivation of liberty and what happens to those behind bars is a matter exclusively for the state.

Today, with one privatised prison in operation, and others pending, the captive marketplace is seen by some as a fresh opportunity for the nation's flagging entrepreneurial spirit, and the education sector, already challenged by local authority "opt outs", is no exception.

Under the Further and Higher Education Act, 1992, further education colleges will be removed from local education authority control from next April 1, and private contractors have been invited to bid for individual, or group, prison franchises. The Home Office argues that the quality of education offered should improve with the injection of new specialisms and teaching resources. It also assures doubters that the overall budget, funded by the Treasury, will not decline

and that statutory obligations will be met, regardless of cost.

Not all those currently working in the service agree. Many will lose their jobs when the results of the bidding are announced in January; those who remain may find themselves reluctant participants in a balance sheet process that feels at odds with their public service vocation.

Sally Gardner is the education officer at Brixton prison, in south London. She has four full-time colleagues and 24 others who come in several hours a week, all of them paid by the Home Office through Lambeth Borough council. She and her fellow full-timers, who are part of Lambeth College's bid for the contract to operate at Brixton, were given 12-month dismissal notices last July.

Brixton is a combined allocation prison and remand centre, which means that inmates are usually moved elsewhere or freed within months of their arrival. But

about 40 per cent of the 700 in residence at any one time take advantage of the basic education courses offered — mainly in the three Rs — and many enjoy the poetry readings, drama workshops and even opera recitals that are made available with the help of outside artists.

The majority of prisoners in Britain is effectively uneducated, having avoided formal schooling in some cases from the age of 12 or 13. Speaking before the riot at Reading remand centre, in which the education department's computer room was wrecked, Jackie Hearene, the centre's education officer, said that her priority was to give young inmates a crash course in the basics and introduce them to the possibilities of education. A remand centre such as Reading holds inmates for anything between one night and 15 months. The average stay is only three months, but the centre still devotes 25 per cent of its budget to education. Reading Adult Centre runs the classes and is one of the bidders for the new contract.

"We are not so naive as to believe that education is in itself a panacea against offending, but those who work with us are likely to lead more worthwhile lives afterwards," Ms Gardner says.

"Our concern is that if tenders are won by private contractors, prison education could become detached from mainstream

practice with no guarantee of quality of tuition. We also fear there could be too much emphasis on the cost of the provision, to the detriment of the service."

At Durham prison, which houses a high-security women's unit as well as general facilities for medium-risk male prisoners, Martin Mogg, the governor, does not share these doubts. "At the moment," he says, "we have to beg, borrow or steal to get the resources we need to help one woman prisoner to obtain her doctorate [a study of social interaction in English literature]. Under the new arrangements, we expect to be able to tap into wider resources, including specialist skills, and in general to get better value for money."

There are eight full-time education officers at Durham, providing a typical range of instruction — "everything from stuffing toys to computer studies" — plus a fluctuating number of session class partners. New College further education college, the provider of the service, is one of seven bidders for the new contract, which embraces other local establishments as well, including Frankland prisons and the Low Newton remand centre. Whoever wins, Mr Mogg has

made it clear he expects change. "Lots of money is now tied up in paying full-time staff, including people who may

not have the specialisation we are looking for," he says. "In future, there will be more part-timers and more specialists. It is the tax payers who are footing the bill and they want the right people tied to the right resources at the right time."

Not every local authority now working in the prison education sector intends staying in the business. Mid-Kent College, for example, which serves nine establishments between Maidstone, Ashford and Canterbury, is not tendering, fearing that, should it win the contract, only to lose it three years later in the next round of licensing, it could end up facing substantial redundancy demands.

Others will simply take the opportunity to wash their hands of a responsibility that, while financially covered by the Home Office [at rate of 105 per cent of the cost incurred], may well be less lucrative than providing an evening class in computer science, or setting up a training course for local industry.

At the Home Office, Ian Benson, the head of the prison education service, believes that the result of the process, now well underway, will be a rich and varied range of providers, with no loss of quality. "Some private bidders are involved out of conscience," he says. "Others are out to turn a profit. But all must meet the standards laid down and all must be competitive." How the prisoners themselves respond to the changed system, and how responsive successful franchisees are to their new charges, will determine if this bold experiment succeeds or fails.

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Gonna sit right down and write myself a letter ...

Virginia Ironside, fired agony aunt (below), puts her advice to the test

Were I an astrologist and not an agony aunt perhaps I could have seen it coming. But I should have known anyway. Enough people have written to me describing the horrors of being made redundant; enough strong men have rushed past my office recently clutching files and spider plants in plastic bags as they make their final exit in tears.

But somehow I didn't really expect it. Every other time I've been summoned to an editor's office I've always been convinced I was going to be sacked. But this was a new editor, a man I liked. It was two days before Christmas. Was I going to be given a *Christmas bonus*? A pat on the back? Asked to discuss new ideas for the *Sunday Mirror's* problem page?

It turned out to be the latter. But the new ideas didn't involve me. Sitting on the editor's leather sofa and smiling inanely, I listened as he told me his sad tale, feeling like an oyster being talked to by the Walrus in *Through the Looking-Glass*:

"I weep for you," the Walrus said: "I'm deeply sympathetic." With sobs and tears he sorted out. Those of the largest size.

The editor assured me that it was nothing personal, that he

thought I was wonderful, that he hated to sack people he admired and respected ... but in order to forge links with the *Daily Mirror*, he would prefer

Marie Trooper to be agony

aunt not only for the daily but

for the *Sunday Mirror* as well.

scanning my leaflets for help.

In "Depression" I read that I could try venting my anger on

something — "a cushion, or

punch the sofa or the walls". I could also, I tell myself, boost

my confidence by looking in a

mirror and saying: "I am

stronger than you."

Everyone tells me things will

work out fine. "You're a house-

hold name," they say blithely.

But until you have a job you're

just another unemployed per-

son, sitting at home and

feeling as if you're floating in

outer space.

Being given the boot is,

these days, rather like getting

your call-up papers in the war.

You can wait and wait, cross-

ing your fingers, but it seems

that sooner or later you get the

knock on the door.

The deputy group man-

aging editor rang the day after

my interview. "Why haven't

you come to collect the cheque

I have for you?" he asked,

referring to my legitimate pay-

off. In an amazing leap of the

imagination he said: "I am

dying to give it to you and tell

you that yes, Virginia, there is

a Santa Claus!"

If he can twist such a

horrible situation round to

make it positive and funny,

perhaps, sometime, I can, too.

Maybe I'll be able to look back

on this grim Christmas and

see the incident as a challenge,

a gift. And that I have not so

much lost a job as gained a

future.

ing or china repairing, or

practise alternative therapies. I

could walk other people's dogs

or take in lodgers — but I

should avoid jobs that involve

addressing envelopes.

Everyone tells me things will

work out fine. "You're a house-

hold name," they say blithely.

But until you have a job you're

just another unemployed per-

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a gift. And that I have not so

No love in a cold climate

Nasal decongestants could have an unfortunate side-effect — impotence

Suffering from a post-Christmas cold? Then you might think twice before buying an over-the-counter cure. According to Kenneth Waters, a consultant surgeon, some decongestants can render men impotent, albeit temporarily. "Experts generally know that certain prescribed drugs such as beta-blockers also carry the side-effect of impotence. But so can some medicines which anyone can buy from the chemist."

Such claims have apparently been borne out by a 45-year-old patient at the London Grosvenor Clinic (where Mr Waters works) who had — unknown to his doctors — been taking a variety of well-known decongestants on and off for 15 years. For most of that time, his sexual performance had been miserably low, and his marriage was suffering as a result. In desperation, he had been to a hypnotist and had hospital counselling, but to no avail.

The link between decongestants and impotence arose only when the patient was injected with prostaglandin to achieve an erection. To save the patient the embarrassment of travelling home with the obtrusive result, doctors at the clinic used decongestant tablets to bring down the erection by constricting the arteries.

When the patient returned home that night, he rang to ask why he had been given some tablets which he had been taking for several years. When he stopped taking them, he resumed a "fantastic" sex life.

Mr Waters says that he "would not be surprised if there were other over-the-counter medicines that cause impotence. It's high time there was a controlled trial. At the very least, patients, pharmacists and GPs should be more aware of the link."

Previous studies have indicated links between poor sexual performance and prescribed medicine, such as beta-blockers and anti-ulcer drugs. But impotence — said to affect one in ten men and one in three over the age of 65 — is still a sensitive subject.

Consequently, many GPs still fail to warn their patients of the possible connection. In an American study published in 1986, only 7 per cent of patients voluntarily told their doctors of their impotence. But when specifically questioned by the same doctors, the number rose to 53 per cent.

British sufferers should be urged to speak up, says Frances Thompson, a drugs information pharmacist, for the North West Thames regional health authority. "This is a common situation when there are several hundreds of new drugs on the market, each with different side-effects," Ms Thompson says.

Not all GPs, however, are up to date with impotence-related drugs as they should be. "Anti-depressants are a good example," Ms Thompson says. "Not everyone knows that they can cause impotence both in men (through poor erections) and in women (loss of libido or delay in orgasm)."

Dr Roger Kirby, who runs an NHS impotence clinic at St

JANE BIDDER
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Jerome Burne
on a study
that assesses
the link
between a
couple's family
relations and
their health

For a family to be as healthy as possible it should be optimistic, believe in God and be led by a traditional male. That is just one of the many implications of a remarkable research project in California that has been studying the effects family life can have on parents' health.

Led by Dr Lawrence Fisher, of the department of family and community medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, the project has uncovered links between 14 indicators of physical and mental health (such as anxiety, having regular check-ups and self-confidence) and more than 50 ways a family behaves and organises itself — ranging from how optimistic it is and how it handles emotions, to how clear the house rules are.

Not only are some of the connections surprising, but the study shows that what is good for the man may not be so healthy for the woman and vice versa.

For example, a house rule that no one opens the parental bedroom door without knocking is likely to correlate with the woman feeling self-confident. The husband, however, will reap no such benefit.

Women who operate the "knock first" rule also appear to practise "preventive behaviour" in terms of physical health — for example, they will have their teeth and breasts examined regularly — but again there is no such link for men. A man's dental check-ups appear to be linked with shared roles — otherwise known as "Who does the cooking?". If husband and wife take turns with chores then the husband is likely to show preventive behaviour but not the wife.

"We were really surprised by just how big the difference between the sexes was," Dr Fisher says. "It just jumps out of the figures and hits you."

What also jumps out is just how beneficial the traditional marriage is for men. Not only are there more elements of such a marriage that exclusively benefit the man, including being "head of the household", making the majority of decisions and being at liberty to pursue interests outside the family, but those elements which may benefit the health of women — being in control of the emotional management of the relationship, creating privacy

within the family — are more ambiguous and require a delicate balancing act on her part.

It is when emotions come tumbling out that the gap between husbands and wives opens up. Past research confirms that, in a couple, the woman tends to manage emotions.

"Some practitioners may simply dish out penile injections of local drugs to produce an erection. This might be appropriate if the impotence was caused by something other than drugs (common causes include hormonal imbalance, neurological problems, surgical difficulties or psychological blocks). But simple questioning about any drugs which the patient might be taking could cure the problem instantly."

So could a more open attitude be taken towards the problem? Mr Rogg says he wishes he had a pound for every patient whose GP has said, "You're 42 years of age — what do you expect?" "I've just put down the phone after a call from a man about to lose his marriage. Makes you think, doesn't it?"

DR FISHER and his team selected 225 families from a community in central California. Each had a man and a woman who had been living together for at least three years, (although the average was 17 years), with at least one adolescent living in the house. Most were Anglo but just under 10 per cent were Spanish. In 75 per cent of couples both partners worked: more than half the women earned less than \$10,000 (£6,300) while 50 per cent of the men earned \$20,000 to \$40,000. This study, the results of which are being published in seven parts in the journal *Family Process*, looked at the effects on the parents; a later paper will deal with the children, but it is not expected that a dramatically different picture will emerge.

AS THE deadline for new year's resolutions approaches, it is worth remembering that the adoption of a healthier lifestyle need not always be time-consuming and strenuous. Similarly, abandoning, or cutting down on, bad habits is easier this new year, thanks to medical research than it has been in previous years.

□ Research this year has shown that lack of exercise increases the chance of developing not only heart disease but also cancer of the colon, testes and probably breast. Brisk regular exercise should therefore be everyone's first resolution. The exercise need not be sweat-inducing. Thirty to 45 minutes hard walking a day is all that is necessary.

□ A glass or two of alcohol a day serves to keep the coronary arteries open, as well as providing some enjoyment. But



The family that stays together, perhaps nuclear perfection as seen through the eyes of John Bull magazine

tions. What she has to overcome for this management to be of benefit to her health is the male's usual response to an argument — to become stubborn, complaining and withdrawn. The popular notion is that it's healthy for people to express their emotions, be they affectionate or angry. But Dr Fisher claims that the key question turns out to be healthy for whom? What he has found is that when the woman approaches arguments in one way it is healthier for her but worse for the man. If she is hostile, tries to make him feel guilty, talks more than he does and does not allow any warm connections to come through, then he is very likely to be depressed. In fact it is the only family situation that is connected with depression for men. She, on the other hand, is unaffected. But if she allows him to take control, of an argument the effects may be positively harmful to her.

The survey found that when men run arguments they respond by withdrawing and refusing to confront the issue at hand. The couple may then become distant and the woman may suffer anxiety. To achieve privacy, her one other individual health benefit, the woman has to perform another balancing act over the amount of time she gets to herself. If she feels that her role as an emotional manager demands that she spends all her energies sharing and encouraging the intimate family needs for cohesion then she misses out on one of the strongest factors protecting her health. But if she is able to establish some privacy — such as the rule about knocking before opening the bedroom door — and has something she does on her

The families had to fill in questionnaires covering their health and three areas of family life: their world view — whether it was gloomy or positive, whether it was religious, did they feel their life was controllable? how they organised themselves — was there a clear leader, was there personal privacy, did they share? and how they managed their emotions.

Then a battery of statistics teased out the connections between the health measures and the family features. It is important to remember, however, that the study shows only that two things — such as being clear about rules and not being depressed — occur together, not that one causes the other.

Resolving to change

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ing and wearing a patch simultaneously.

□ The greedy will resolve to keep down their weight not by intermittent fasting and stuffing, now shown to be dangerous, but by the gradual loss of weight. Two pounds a week is ideal. They will have their serum cholesterol measured. If it is high, and there are factors such as family history of heart disease and premature death, smoking, slothfulness or high blood pressure, they should cut back on fats.

□ Fat or thin, we will all resolve to take Vitamin C, beta-carotene and Vitamin E, preferably in our diet, but otherwise as pills to protect our arteries against disease, our cells from cancerous change, and our eyes from cataracts.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

ADVERTISING ARCHIVES

Dr Fisher's study is unusual both for its size and because it looks at so-called "normal" families (see box) — that is, ones that are not in therapy, from which much of our knowledge of families comes. "The major value of this study is that it enables us to say for the first time what the really important features that define a family are," Dr Fisher says.

He believes that the strong connection between religious belief and good health shown by the study may be because religion gives families a wider support group. For husbands, private prayers and regular churchgoing was linked with a general sense of well-being, as well as keeping him off drink and cigarettes. For wives the only benefit of religious belief was a more active social life (smoking among women decreased only when they regularly got some privacy).

Religion's benefits are at odds with the study's findings about controlling destiny. Dr Fisher did not find, as other researchers have, that believing the family could control its own fate, via religion or any other outside controlling force, was strongly linked with good health. Instead, both men and women who have an optimistic belief that everything will turn out all right in the end tend to enjoy a sense of well-being, self-esteem and be free from depression.

Dr Fisher believes that with the aid of this family map all sorts of discoveries might be made. "It might be much easier to predict which families will cope well with the problem of living with a senile grandparent or a handicapped child. We know that families which are optimistic normally do well, and we know that a readiness to experiment with new things is linked with health in husbands. But these are just the elements that are likely to suffer when a chronic invalid arrives. Families that have to take in an elderly relative and also score high on these features should be carefully watched."

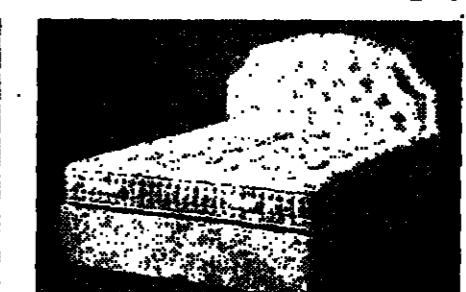
Dr Fisher has found one recipe for the healthy couple in what he calls "organised cohesiveness". The ingredients for this are that partners know who is in charge of which areas of their joint life and what the rules are, and that they are close to each other and spend time sharing thoughts and feelings. When these all come together both partners feel good and do not get depressed, while individually the man has less of a tendency to drink and the woman avoids anxiety.

"What this shows is that you need to work at families," Dr Fisher says. "Organisation and cohesiveness are different things but these days, with everyone being so busy, you can't have one without the other. You have to make time to be together."

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VOUCHER



Lynne Truss

■ The holiday television films are good news for lip-readers but nobody else

In real life, no one ever says "frig". This is plain fact. Language embraces all manner of expletives, from the colourful to the brutal, yet somehow the terms "frig" and "frigging" have never been known to leap to the lips of any enraged person ("Hey, get off my frigging foot!"), mainly because they are mild, meaningless, slightly comical words inappropriate to situations of high intensity. Yet in movies specially dubbed for television, the frigging seems never to stop. I raise this matter because the Christmas TV fortnight was loudly fanfare as an opportunity to see lots of recent box-office successes for the first time on British television; yet it has turned out, on closer inspection, to be good news for lip-readers and nobody else.

If you are familiar with the movies in their original form, this blatant doctoring of the dialogue can give you a nasty turn. You know when you are sitting innocently on the wrong bus, with your destination comfortably in sight, and you suddenly swerve round a corner and accelerate helplessly northwards? Well, it feels just like that. Your consciousness splits in half, and you feel so bewildered that for a moment you can't remember where you live or what your name is. I watched *The Fabulous Baker Boys* on television on Sunday night, despite having seen it countless times on video, and this unexpected cornering took place so frequently, it was like — oh, like I had bought a jinxed Travelcard or something. You see, the script of *The Fabulous Baker Boys* is heavily dependent on the genuine F-word to indicate dysfunctionality, but on the TV you never knew when it might come out all peculiar. Sometimes it was there, but sometimes it wasn't. "Count the frigging money, Frank," said the miserable piano player (Jeff Bridges) to his brother — sort of under his breath, but loudly enough for a supercilious bar-room manager to hear. This was supposed to be an offensive remark, but it wasn't really, because "frigging" is not a bad word. "Screw him," he commented afterwards, his heart evidently still not in it. Later, he had a nasty showdown with Michelle Pfeiffer, with whom he had spent two meaningless nights in the sack. "Listen princess," he snarled emphatically. "We danced twice." Danced? What did he mean, danced? Viewers scratched their heads. "Hey, I hope this hasn't been cut!"

Personally, I think there is a big issue at stake, because I hate to be sold a pup. I like to know that I am watching the genuine article, as seen by everyone else, otherwise it's a waste of time. Also, I have this naive, pathetic belief that dialogue is supposed to tell you more about the thought-processes of the characters than about the tender sensibilities of the imagined audience watching a grown-up film on BBC2 between 10pm and midnight. In *The Fabulous Baker Boys*, two of the characters smoke a lot, too, to show how miserable and negative they are. Well, why was this not cleaned up likewise, to protect the feelings of the vehement non-smoker? It's only a movie, after all. "Count the frigging money," growls the saturnine Jack Baker, and instead of taking a defiant smoky drag, produces a bag of sherbet lemons and offers them around. Why not? Perhaps he shouldn't even be saturnine, either, because, listen, no one wants to be depressed over Christmas. The TV version could have him a lot more cheerful. And instead of all this "frigging", he could exclaim "Christopher Columbus!", like Jo in *Little Women*.

The worst aspect of this bowdlerization of soundtracks is that it can transform a trusting happy viewer into wary, narrow-eyed lip-reader, taking nothing at face value. For example, did you watch the Miss Marple film on Sunday? Few expletives on the surface, but you could see that the words had been put on clumsily afterwards, not matching the movements of their mouths. "Goddam" was a word blurted out by an American character at one point, but unfortunately I rushed to the screen too late to see whether he formed his lips in a labio-dental fricative (or "f") when he said it. Once you have been wised up to this stuff, you see, there is no going back. It makes you feel all suspicious and nasty. Count the frigging money, Frank.

Privately rented homes could liberate us from the burden of property ownership, says Janet Daley

What was the most serious mistake of the Thatcher era? Not the poll tax or entering the ERM. Those were tactical misjudgements. More disastrous was the belief that owning property was the route to freedom. Only now, knee-deep in the wreckage caused by that fallacy, are the Conservatives proposing to revive private rented housing. If the reforms were done properly and not in a marginal, apologetic way, they would lead to just the sort of changes in national morale which Thatcherism thought it was about.

But the confusion which led to the home-owning fallacy was part of an incoherent view of housing which the Conservatives melded out of inherited post-war paternalism and a muddled sort of radicalism which saw only half the problem. Their remedies now for the private rental sector still seem to be bred in that miasma of contradictions. Governments have fatally unbalanced the property market by bribing owners with mortgage tax relief. This one now proposes to bribe prospective landlords with "tax incentives", thereby distorting this fledgling market even before it is established.

The first mistake was understandable. In 1979, there was indeed a sinister alliance between taking away from people the sort of control over their domestic lives which home ownership seemed to provide, and national defeatism. So, setting ordinary people free had to mean letting them join the property-owning classes, didn't it?

Hearing it now, what a curiously aristocratic idea that sounds. But Britain, even under that great champion of the middle class, Margaret Thatcher, has never really understood the bourgeois virtues of mobility and ambition. To be accepted as properly middle class in England (but not in Scotland) is to be ersatz upper class, rooted, complacent and, above all, profligate.

And so the flawed theology was disseminated. Much political attention was paid to the frustration of council tenants spending money on consumer durables to furnish homes which could never be truly theirs. Not only were they to be liberated from the petty tyrannies of bureaucracy — free at last to paint their own front doors and replace their windows with neo-Georgian bays — but their children were to be encouraged from ever entering into that one-class ghetto. Schooled in the joys of aspiration and self-determination, this new generation was urged to leap straight into home-ownership. And so a proud new swathe of the population committed itself to property as a one-way ticket to respectability and financial security.

The rest, as they say, is history, too well-trod and depressing to rehearse again here. But looking at the tragic mess in which it has all ended for so many, one can only wonder at the blind spot which Thatcherism seems to have had about housing. Thinking that they had rethought the subject root and branch, the Tories flew at council housing with a fury, in the belief that it was the only malign force in the picture. But

they accepted unquestioningly the socialist view of the private landlord as an inevitable exploiter of the innocent. Even a government which was the greatest sweep-away of political myths in recent history, balked at the idea of rehabilitating this demon.

Perhaps they half-accepted the leftist view that Rachmanism — the notorious terrorising of slum tenants — was a product of free-market forces. Rachman, whose brutal techniques for evicting recalcitrant flat-dwellers were linked with crime and prostitution in Notting Hill, became a symbol of villainy. People providing housing for profit came to seem as notorious as pimping. Like health care, housing had to be socially distributed and guaranteed.

No one, not even most Thatcherites, seemed prepared to argue that the excesses of Rachmanism were not a product of a free market but of a desperately unfree one. Over-charging and exploitation, let alone the outright victimisation of tenants, do not arise from a commercial free-for-all which gives the customer a fighting chance. They flourish like fungi in the dark corners of strangled markets, finding the weak spots in over-protected, moribund systems — using illegality as a weapon of blackmail. The private rented sector, became, through over-constriction, prey for sharks: the benign landlords dropped out, leaving the ruthless to scratch what nasty gain they could from an over-regulated, over-rationed black market.

But the market is free to respond to real demand only if it is not weighted. Give a handicap or an advantage to one sector or another and you will only store up another set of problems which seems to cry out for further regulation. Private rented homes could be the most flexible and genuinely liberating system of housing which a capitalist society has to offer. But only if capitalism is given a chance to work. As it is, the debacle of Thatcherite housing policy is going to result almost inevitably in a lost generation: all those people who thought they were making a smart gamble in a free marketplace but who were really playing with loaded dice. And the game had been rigged, ironically enough, in the name of a new form of paternalism: one that promised freedom.

To rent makes sense

Why security comes first

Conor Cruise O'Brien suggests a solution to the Palestinian deportations that is in Israel's interest



Defiant in no-man's-land: but no Arab country wants to take in these dangerous men

A stirring reward

SO FAR the reward, offered by Jacques Delors, of 200,000 ecu and a job for a succinct definition of subsidiarity on one sheet of A4 paper has not been claimed. But a suggestion put forward by Professor Ross Harper, former Scottish Tory president, has won an alternative award.

It was not, however, one that Harper, professor of law at Strathclyde University, would have necessarily wanted. His definition of the hated S-word has won the first wooden spoon to be awarded by the European parliament socialist group in a monthly campaign against Euro-jargon.

In a pamphlet called *New Unionism* published by the Society of Scottish Conservative Lawyers, Harper has reduced subsidiarity down to a algebraic formula.

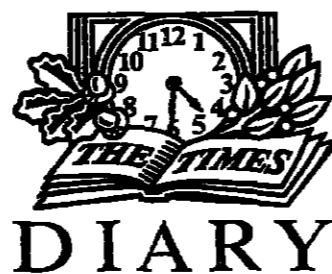
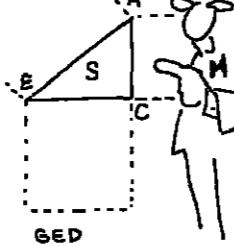
A = $\frac{ExEA}{CCE}$

A, says Harper, stands for the appropriateness of whether a decision should be devolved from Brussels to the member state. E is efficiency, EA empathy (acceptability), CE cost (economics of scale) and C consistency. Thus, he points

out, is the simple version. "Much work can flow from the creation of such a formula. For instance the factors should have regard to the difference under centralisation or cost with subsidiarity. Each of the items should be absolute terms but in comparative terms."

For this and the accompanying treatise, Harper, who studied maths as part of his degree, will receive a bottle of champagne from the socialist group. He insists he was flattered that the socialists had taken the trouble to read it and

Then There's Subsidiarity by Pythagoras



wasn't a bit surprised they had not understood it. As for the wooden spoon award, he says: "I hope it is sufficiently long to allow me to sup with safety with them." As to whether the complex formula is actually a better indicator of the lack of humour displayed by European socialists, Harper is not saying.

Dickie birdwatch

AFTER prolonged controversy over press intrusion into matters royal, yesterday saw Buckingham Palace perform a neat *volte face*. As the pack of royal photographers followed the annual Christmas pheasant shoot at Sandringham, a BBC crew was to be seen filming their print colleagues from a car driven by none other than Dickie Arbiter,

press secretary to the Prince of Wales and a man not known for his friendliness towards members of the fourth estate.

Arbiter arrived at the wheel of his maroon Escort Cabriolet XR3i — not a vehicle one automatically associates with royal circles — with the three-person crew aboard. They were, explains the BBC, taking film for inclusion in a *Panorama* special on press intrusion to be screened at the end of January.

The gaggle of press photographers, assembled at the estate for the day, did not, however, see the comedy in Arbiter's role, especially after the royal spokesman had engaged one of their number in a characteristically frank exchange.

"The royals are trying to prove what they regard as intrusion," says one photographer, "and yet we never strayed from the public road." The BBC yesterday insisted that, despite claims to the contrary, they had received no special privileges. The palace said this was a regular part of its work. But just how often does Arbiter help cameramen to load their gear into the boot?

Leader of the gang

WHILE Cardew Robinson, who died on Sunday, was best known

for his Cardew the Cad character, it was his work in the RAF Gang Shows which meant most to the veteran comedian. Right to the end, Robinson was still appearing in revivals of the show to raise money for charity.

Only last month he was one of the star turns in a Gang Show at Wimbleton Theatre to mark the sixth anniversary of a vehicle that introduced such talents as Peter Sellers, Dick Emery, Harry Worth and Michael Bentine.

Jack Seaton, president of the British Music Hall Society and the man who organised the Wimble-

ton show, says that Robinson, despite successfully making the transition to television, never forgot his music hall roots.

Cardew's first love was the Gang Show. Soon after D-Day he was in France entertaining the troops. He was singing his heart out on the back of an army lorry when sirens blared: guns were fired, and shells started raining down.

Cardew never turned a hair, kept cracking jokes, and singing songs even when the lorry took off at high speed, heading for the front, with him on the back dis-

pensing cheer to anyone who would listen. He must have put the fear of God into the enemy."

Barry Cryer, who knew Robinson for 20 years, was one of only a handful of friends who called him by his real name, Douglas. "I once went on a cruise with him on the HMS *Canberra*. That toothy grin, and those twinkling eyes, had a magical effect on all the matrons wandering around on the deck. He was like a character from an Agatha Christie world."

• *Feeling is running high in the eastern Iranian town of Salmas, where the populace believe the Saviour — the twelfth imam or direct male offspring of the prophet Muhammad — is about to reappear after 1,200 years to proclaim the end of the world. A local man has gathered thousands of followers by saying that he recently heard the neighing of the horse of the Saviour in the local mosque, a sure sign that the twelfth imam is on his way. The town's official mullah, appointed by Tehran, is sceptical. Only trained theologians recognise the neighing of the horse of the Saviour. He pontificated to the locals recently. The crowd was having none of it. The unfortunate mullah was pulled down from his pulpit and thrown into a pool.*



A FLIGHT TOO FAR

If Iraq expected America to be off guard, it miscalculated

President Saddam Hussein's jubilation at George Bush's electoral defeat should be tempered by America's forthright response to the Iraqi air force's violation of the ban against Iraqi flights over southern Iraq. The president-elect, Bill Clinton, supported the shooting down of the aircraft in terms almost identical to those used by President Bush. So much for the publicly expressed hopes of Saddam's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, that Iraq would soon be able to deal in a constructive atmosphere with a Clinton administration possessed of an "objective attitude". By this he meant that UN sanctions against Iraq, reconfirmed last month in view of Iraq's continued refusal to honour many of its obligations under the Gulf war ceasefire resolution, would soon lapse once Mr Bush had left the White House.

Baghdad's rhetoric about retaliation can be discounted; Saddam does not want to court the kind of allied response which would put his weakened forces at risk of further military humiliation. But more probing of Western determination must be expected. Yesterday, Saddam's envoy to the UN denied any intention "of escalating the situation". But in the same breath, he threatened "more turbulence" until sanctions were lifted and governments resumed normal diplomacy with Baghdad.

Ever since the ceasefire, repeated incidents of Iraqi harassment of UN guards, relief missions and weapons inspectors — on all of which Saddam has retreated only under threat of military retaliation — have served him, at home and in the region, as demonstrations that he is still in power and making the running. Saddam's immediate goals are to run the UN out of the country or at least, as he has in the "safe haven" in the north through extensive sabotage, to disable its relief operations. With the UN out, he would regain most of his freedom to crush internal opposition; and then to reassess Iraq's position as a regional power with which its neighbours had better co-operate.

An avid follower of American media, Saddam persisted during the Gulf war in exaggerating American opposition to

the war and in believing that America would shrink from using the forces it had assembled there for fear of casualties. He may have misinterpreted Mr Clinton's "America first" campaign theme as a form of isolationism worth putting to the test, and ignored his strong position on combating violations of human rights.

Wishful thinking is a poor guide to action. On Somalia, Mr Clinton and the president are at one; on Bosnia, Mr Clinton has begun to sound the more hawkish of the two. In security matters, the president-elect has gone out of his way to insist that there will be continuity. This is likely to apply with particular force to the "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq and the northern exclusion zone protecting Iraqi Kurds. In both cases, humanitarian concerns march with international law. Under last year's resolution 688, the UN undertook to protect Iraqi Kurds and Shias against the worst excesses of Saddam's regime. Any use of Iraqi fixed-wing aircraft violates, in addition, the Gulf ceasefire resolution, 687, which provides for military enforcement of all its terms.

Enforcement of the exclusion zones in Iraq is already only partial. Allied air cover can protect Kurds and Shias from bombs and helicopter gunships and appears to have deterred Saddam from major ground offensives, but relief convoys in the north have been sabotaged, and in the south thousands of Shias have been arrested, tortured and executed and subjected to artillery attacks.

Saddam is prepared for a southern offensive as soon as international vigilance wanes, and boasted last week that he will crush the Kurds in the north so soon as the West removes its protective umbrella. The real question for an incoming American president is not therefore whether to maintain existing sanctions, but what further can be done to compel Iraq to cease flouting the authority of the United Nations and abandon, as is demanded of it, all claim to Kuwait. This week's incident is just one more reminder that the UN's job is incomplete, and may remain unfinished so long as Saddam sits in Baghdad.

TAILS OF THE RIVER BANK

Saving the otter is a paradigm for the conservation of us all

Welcome home, Tarka. The river Torridge, in north Devon, which for a generation has eddied blighted sludge, has been restored to rings of bright water. The sparkling river where Henry Williamson set his story of otter life once again has a healthy otter population breeding over four-fifths of the Torridge catchment, including parts where they have never been recorded before. Gavin Maxwell closed *Ring of Bright Water* with elegiac optimism, "Yet while there is time, there is the certainty of return." So it takes more than even the poisonous 20th century to drive otters away from English waters.

In 1927, when Williamson published his classic, the common otter or *Lutra lutra* was widespread throughout the United Kingdom. Since then its numbers have been decimated eight times, and it has been pushed back to the wilder fringes of the United Kingdom by industrial pollution, intensive farming and urbanisation.

The principal enemies of these shy creatures of the riverbank are chemicals. Pesticides such as DDT and dieldrin have been banned for years, but residues persist in fish eaten by otters. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), formerly used to make electrical equipment, persist in the environment for 60 years, and cause sickness and sterility in otters. The clearing of riverbanks of trees and undergrowth has cut back the habitat where otters can build their holes. Increased motor traffic on the rivers and country roads brings death to otters, and they drown in fyke nets, set for their favourite food, the eel, or are caught in traps set for their nastier riverine rivals, the mink.

The otter is one of the oldest and best-loved inhabitants of Britain — an affection not always felt by fishermen and bird-lovers. Before the Roman came to Rye, and up to

Corbridge strayed, the Old World native otter in its English rivers played. Before Williamson and Maxwell made it the archetypal anthropomorphised furry animal, with their minutely observed books in the peculiarly English genre of stories of animals treated as humans, the otter was part of country life and literature. Its story stretches back through Richard Jefferies and Gilbert White to a glossary of about 700 AD, which makes it one of the oldest names to be written down in English. Falstaff called Mistress Quickly an otter, as being neither fish nor flesh, so that a man knew not where to have her. It was an affectionate insult.

By its nature, the otter encourages humans to think warmly of it, because it does not do much harm (except to fish and small water fowl), and, with the cat, it is one of the few animals to enjoy playing games like, and with, humans. It will slide down banks of mud, or throw stones into the water and catch them as they sink. There is less enthusiasm for bringing back dangerous furries animals such as the wolf and wild boar.

In spite of imagined literary similarities, otters are not humans, nor are they quite as important as humans in the balancing acts of life. But a civilised modern society leaves space for its other inoffensive animal inhabitants. That is why there are no longer any otter hunts on British waters, while there are 14 packs of mink hounds, and increasing, to keep down the unbalancing infestation of minks. British rivers would be bereft without the creatures — heron, salmon, otter, kingfisher — for which they have been celebrated since the earliest records. Tarka's return to Devon is a model of conservation, and should act as an example for the rescue of other endangered species, which include, in the long run, Man himself.

From Dr Maurice J. Healy

Sir, If you give a budget to GP fundholders most will reduce waiting times for their patients and make savings. If the same sum of money is given to hospitals, waiting lists increase and the money is never enough. Why?

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE HEALY,
Hornsey Rise Health Centre,
Hornsey Rise, NJ9.
December 23.

THE DAYS OF RECKONING

Christmas Past: a series on the unchanging face of the season.
Eight: From The Times of December 29, 1952

This, as they say, is it. Our parole has expired, the lubricant of procrastination has congealed upon the sands of time, we have crossed over into what so lately seemed the Never-Never-Land of "after Christmas". Its bleak landscape, varied only by the closely striated plateaux of our pending trays, is paved with promises waiting to be broken. How many times in the last four weeks, and in how many different contexts, have we said "Let's leave it until after Christmas". The suggestion was invariably popular. "Right," they said (for in their mind, too, the festive season loomed like some great battle on which all the energies needed to be concentrated and from which, it seemed probable, not many of the participants would survive), "I'll give you a ring as soon as it's all over." In an access of quirkiness, we amended this proposal. It was for us, we courteously but insanely insisted, to take the initiative. We would give them a ring. They should leave it to us. They did.

It is not that we are averse to establishing this contact. The idea of taking luncheon with them is in no way repugnant to us; we would gladly spend an hour or two inspecting their milking parlour, their studio, their

youth club or the establishment at which they manufacture supersonic flying machines. The trouble is that, collectively, they expect us to do all these things and more. The backlog has got out of hand, the arrows of procrastination which we shot into the air have all fallen on the same small corner of the calendar. To communicate with all the people we undertook to get in touch with after Christmas would be a task which, though not impossible, might well jeopardise our convalescence; to communicate with only a few would be invidious. Most of us communicate with none.

The consequences of this failure to fulfil our social obligations are less grave than perhaps they ought to be. The days pass, and we continue to postpone telephoning to the people we said we would telephone to after Christmas. But their consciences are burdened by similar peccadilloes; and if the worst happens — if an expensive secretary rings up and says, in a pointed manner, "I see from Sir Tarquin's engagement book that he was expecting you to get in touch with him after Christmas," we can always reply, mousily defiant, that the period under reference had not yet by any means expired.

Daunting future for railways

From Professor W. P. Bradshaw

Sir, The managers from the private sector who are to be brought in to run Railtrack, the new public-sector bureaucracy which will be responsible for railway track, signalling and timetables, face a daunting task (report, December 21). According to the white paper, *New Opportunities for the Railways*, Railtrack must earn a return on its assets which, it has been suggested, will be 8 per cent.

As the new managers attempt to do this they are likely to drive InterCity into loss and freight traffic away from the railways because neither business will be able to pay track charges consistent with such a financial target. Railways have very high fixed costs and it is quite impossible to adjust capacity proportionately to the loss in traffic.

The inevitable consequence is that the reduced levels of traffic remaining on the railways will in turn be unable to meet the increased share of the track costs which will be allocated to them. This will lead to a spiral of decline. Such a state of affairs is inconsistent with ministerial desires, reflecting public opinion, that increased use should be made of the railways.

The companies which the government hopes will come forward to operate franchises have already indicated that they will be unwilling to become involved in a business where they do not control such vital operations as timetable planning, track signalling and stations. Certainly none are willing to invest in long-life assets such as rolling stock without long, stable franchises.

The chairman of BR is quite right to put the question of creating a climate for investment as probably the most important criterion against which any proposals to privatisate the railways should be judged. Unfortunately government is focusing, far too narrowly, on creating an expensive bureaucracy which will engage in exercises like cost allocation and the creation of competition between train operators on the same tracks.

Instead effort should be devoted to the design of a franchise-bidding process which will seek out operators willing to invest substantially, over a long period, in modernising and expanding our railway system.

Yours faithfully,
BILL BRADSHAW,
Centre for Socio-Legal Studies,
Wolfson College, Oxford.
December 21.

Medical matters

From Dr T. E. Lear

Sir, Tom Sackville, the junior health minister, is reported (Infotech, December 11) to have told health service managers in Birmingham that in the long term doctors' notes, nurses' care plans and X-ray films are to be replaced by electronic records. Another part of the strategy, as reported, is to link computers in hospitals, doctors' surgeries and health authorities into a single national network.

This plan seems to test important principles. Medical records contain personal information which the doctor holds in trust. The doctor-patient relationship is often open-ended and permission to communicate information to others on one occasion does not imply on future occasions as well.

How can a doctor pass his responsibility for discretion to someone unknown to patient and doctor alike?

Yours sincerely,
TERENCE LEAR,
140 St George's Avenue,
Northampton.

From Dr Maurice J. Healy

Sir, If you give a budget to GP fundholders most will reduce waiting times for their patients and make savings. If the same sum of money is given to hospitals, waiting lists increase and the money is never enough. Why?

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE HEALY,
Hornsey Rise Health Centre,
Hornsey Rise, NJ9.
December 23.

Bankruptcy anomaly

From Mr A. H. Dutton

Sir, Your report, "Experts call for end to Dickensian view of bankruptcy" (December 15), brings to mind another iniquity chartered civil and structural engineers and, I believe, all members of similar institutions chartered under the privy seal, must be struck off if declared bankrupt.

While this is quite proper if the member has been fraudulent, in the current economic climate many will find themselves in this unfortunate position as a result of drastically reduced workloads failing to produce sufficient turnover.

To strike off those members who are victims of circumstance removes their ability to practise, and hence an opportunity to make amends and rebuild their lives.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW DUTTON,
Oakbank, Bagshot Road,
Brookwood, Surrey.
December 15.

Business letters, page 30

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Cost of prisoners held in police cells

From the Director of the Howard League

Sir, The Auditor General has qualified his certificate on the Home Office accounts because of inaccuracies in police force claims for holding prisoners in their cells (report, December 23). His enquiry discovered one police force which charged £1,800 per prisoner per day.

The Howard League has been deeply concerned about the practice of holding prisoners in police cells for long periods. Our objection to the practice rests primarily on the grounds of poor conditions, lack of access to families and lawyers, and the lack of rights and standards for the prisoners.

We have also been concerned that police officers have been diverted away from their proper duties towards becoming long-term custodians, a task for which they are untrained and ill-prepared. I heard recently, for instance, that police officers local to our offices had to spend time searching charity shops for spare clothes for their prisoners. I was given to understand that the officers were spending their own money.

had usually previously been employed in social work. The new policy had no effect for some years on order and discipline because the senior uniformed staff were as before. But after 1945 the uniformed service no longer attracted the same kind of men.

When between 1961 and 1972 I visited prisons in the course of my duties as a Queen's Bench judge I began to notice a decline from the standards which I had known in my father's time. When I enquired why, a governor told me that changing penal policy called for less "spit and polish" and more personal contact with those who were soon to be called inmates, not prisoners. Long Lartin, when inspected by Judge Tunnicliffe, shows where this policy can lead: so, too, do last Saturday's events at Reading prison.

May the penal regime which existed in the first half of this century did require change; but it is worth remembering that in the late 1930s the average daily population of all penal institutions was only about 13,000, in contrast to a present-day average of about 46,000. Can it be that the old-style staff were better at rehabilitation than the new?

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village, Skelton, York.
December 28.

Speed and safety

From Mr Andrew Howard

Sir, Your leader ("Stop motorway mayhem", December 23) rightly stresses the need to change public attitudes to speed.

This effort should start with the young. Schools should be required to teach pupils to be responsible road users for the rest of their lives. New drivers can be influenced by ensuring that driving instruction, and the driving test, place a higher emphasis on drivers' attitudes.

Changing attitudes involves more than education, however. The car culture needs to change a little. Car advertisements, for example, must emphasise the more responsible elements of car ownership, rather than stressing the limits to which a car can be taken.

Finally, everybody needs to change. We must all accept that driving safely means occasionally being late. If we do, most of the pressure causing

drivers to join the "motorway mayhem" will be removed.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW HOWARD

(Head of Road Safety,

Automobile Association,

Farnham House,

Basingstoke, Hampshire.

December 23.

From Captain S. N. L. Emms

Sir, As a mariner, I was taught a simple rule-of-thumb method of determining a safe speed in fog or low visibility conditions to proceed at such speed as to be capable of stopping within half the range of visibility.

Thus, collision with another vessel could be avoided.

The application of this rule by drivers would stop motorway pile-ups.

Yours faithfully,

S. EMMS,

The Tower,

Lower Downing,

Whitford, Chwyd.

December 23.

Orchestral difficulties

From the Controller of BBC Scotland

Sir, Richard Watson's letter (December 19) about the proposal to merge the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of Scottish Opera is incorrect on a number of points.

I cannot agree with his assertion that the proposed merger makes a mockery of the joint Arts Council/BBC review of orchestral provision in the United Kingdom. That review provided the overall context for the issues debated by the SAC and Scottish Opera.

As for secrecy, any announcement of conversations, far less negotiations, would have resulted in months of uncertainty for the orchestras, with destabilising effects. As soon as a workable proposal was drawn up it was put before the players for their consideration.

No decision on a merger has been taken. A proposal has been put forward for consideration. Wide-rang-

ing discussions lie ahead, during which all points of view will be considered.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN MCGORMICK

Controller, BBC Scotland,

Broadcasting House,

Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow.

December 23.

From Mr Charles May

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 79; Sir Richard Beaumont, diplomat, 80; Lord Beaverbrook, 41; Mr John Cornell, former chairman, Distillers Company, 68; Mr Bernard Cribbins, actor, 64; Baroness Denton of Wakefield, 57; General Sir Robert Ford, 69; Professor L.C.B. Gower, former vice-chancellor, Southampton University, 79; Mr David Hall, former chief constable, Humbershire, 62; Sir Simon Hornby, chairman, W.H. Smith, 58; Mr Gilbert Hunt, company chairman, 78; Mrs Rosalind Preston, former president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 57; The Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, 56; Sir Kenneth Sharp, accountant, 66; Mr Harvey Smith, showjumper, 54; Mr Jon Voight, actor, 54; Sir Edward Williams, former commissioner-general, Expo 88, Brisbane, 71.

University news

University prizes
The following have been awarded:
Winter Williams Law Prizes 1992
First prize: Jonathan Riley, St John's College; second prize: Jane Esther Convery, Pembroke College. Awards for meritorious works have been given to Susan Louise Davies, St John's College and Elizabeth Stokes, New College. Sara Norton Prize 1992
The prize has been awarded jointly to Dennis R. Hoover and Burt L. Monroe, both of Lincoln College.

London
St George's Hospital Medical School
Dr Sean Hilton, senior lecturer in the Department of General Practice and Primary Care has been appointed to the chair of General Practice and Primary Care upon the retirement of Professor Paul Freeling.

Bristol
Pro-Vice-chancellors
Professor G.M. Sturz to succeed Professor B.M. Bird as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for four years from August 1, 1993
Deans

Council has approved the election of the following as Deans for the session 1993-94:

Arts: Professor M.P. Costeloe
Social Sciences: Professor M. Beveridge
Medicine: Professor P.M. Keen
Science: Professor D.V. Evans
Dr Richard Little, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political and International Relations, University of Lancaster, to the chair in politics
Dr P.R. Roberts, Reader in Pharmacology, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Southampton University, to the Chair of Chemical Neuro-Pharmacology.

Appointment

Christopher Bernard Chandler and David John Owen to be joint District Judges, Mr Chandler for the districts of the Southend and Grays Thurrock County Courts and in the District Registry of the High Court at Southend from January 4, and Mr Owen for the Nottingham group of county courts and in the District Registry of the High Court at Nottingham, Derby, Mansfield, Chesterfield, and Leicester from January 18.

Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth

The following Officers passed out from Britannia Royal Naval College on December 17, when the salutus was taken by Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord.

Naval College entry
Seaman: Sub Lt J F Freeborn, Sub Lt S Gardiner, Sub Lt C G Meekings, Sub Lt M R Reid, Mid D Bassett, Mid B D Bosley, Mid W A Couts, Mid J R Dean, Mid I A Dornan, Mid S Fairhead, Mid S F Hill, Mid S A Hoyle, Mid N Lancaster, Mid L Lawson, Mid A B Ley, Mid V A Mackay, Mid S A Miles, Mid M R Parker, Mid D O'Leary, Mid N J Park, Mid P S Roberts, Mid W R Sherman, Mid S Sibley-Piggott, Mid R D Smith, Mid M J Spooner, Mid A M Stevens, Mid M R Sundifield, Mid D A Thompson, Mid C G Unickache, Mid J D Vink, Mid S D Walton, Supply and Secretariat: Mid S A Coaker, Mid F Percival.
Engineers: Mid G Adams, Mid G E Arkah, Mid M Candy, Mid E N Cooper, Mid D D Goff, Mid A H Gulland, Mid A M Gofford, Mid J G T Haworth, Mid T S Jefferson, Mid J Marr, Mid G Potts, Mid M E Pudsey, Mid L D Sanderson.

Direct graduate entry
Seaman: Sub Lt D J Ayres, Sub Lt J A Baison, Sub Lt L J Chardfield, Sub Lt S S B Cohen, Sub Lt E Crombie, Sub Lt C H Downes, Sub Lt M N Fries-Smith, Sub Lt J C M Gruse, Sub Lt A M Hygate, Sub Lt W A Killick, Sub Lt A P Markey, Sub Lt R Maxwell, Sub Lt

Airey Neave Trust

The trustees of the Airey Neave Trust have announced fellowship awards for 1992-3, sponsoring research at the following universities:
Nottingham University, to analyse the development of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights through the work of the Human Rights Committee.

Queen's University, Belfast, to determine the nature and extent of compensation for victims of violent crimes in other European jurisdictions.

St Andrews University, the setting up of seminars for politicians to meet professional philosophers.

Architects told to save records

By RAY CLANCY

ARCHITECTS are being urged to save their records because important historical documents are ending up in bins or being thrown out as more and more practices close down during the recession.

Rebecca Bailey, of the business Records Centre at Glasgow University, is collecting the records because of fears that they are being neglected and destroyed. Already she has found that a fifth of practices have documents dating from the 19th century and a further third from the first half of the 20th century.

"The last thing architects think about when they are going under is keeping their records. It can be costly to store them and all too often they are thrown out. There have been two quite horrifying cases of deliberate destruction. Two years ago the entire collection of an architect's practice in Aberdeen was put in a skip on the whim of one partner," said Ms Bailey. A collection in Dundee met the same fate.

The documents are being recorded, listed and catalogued by the Scottish Survey of Architectural Practices and will be made available to the public. Ms Bailey, who has a degree in architectural history, believes it is the first and biggest survey of its kind in Europe. "Collections that have been destroyed undoubtedly contained documents not just of local importance but of national significance as well. Often they are whole records of towns and how they were conceived and 'built,'" she added.

One of the most important set of plans to be uncovered is a collection of designs for cinemas in the 1930s. They were found in a storeroom where everything else had been carefully catalogued.

The records also contain interesting anecdotes from days gone by. There was a quantity surveyor in a Dundee practice who arrived at work every morning straight from his favourite public house accompanied by his personal barber who would shave him in the office. An Aberdeen architect started out laying tramlines in the city and went on to design a railway in China. A Glasgow architect made his name during his student days when he attended lectures wearing a bowler hat and white gloves and ate lunch from a picnic hamper.



A life in art: Edward Povey works on a mural depicting man's journey from childhood to old age commissioned by the University of Wales in Bangor for a concert hall. The artist, who has painted over 30 murals in north Wales, says the 600 sq ft work seeks to illustrate the path from purity of ignorance to the state of purity through knowledge

Roman coin hoard

Treasure buried by nobles as empire crumbled

By NICHOLAS WATT
AND NORMAN HAMMOND

WHEN Roman aristocrats sailed away their treasures in a Suffolk field 1,500 years ago they had little idea their world was dissolving and they would never see their chattels again.

As marauding Anglo-Saxons and a series of civil wars eroded their pampered lifestyle, they followed the Roman tradition of burying valuables to be retrieved once strife had died down.

In fact it took a millennium and a half before a retired gardener discovered the treasure inside the remains of a rotten box in a newly ploughed field at Hoxne, near Diss, last November.

Conservationists at the British Museum are now cleaning the jewellery and coins which have oxidised and are wedged together. Once their work is finished in two months time two archaeologists from the museum, Dr Catherine Johns and Dr Timothy Potter, will begin to study what one archaeologist described as "one of the

greatest finds of the late Roman period".

The hundreds of silver spoons, strainers and gold bracelets discovered in the Hoxne hoard suggest the treasure belonged to a wealthy family. One of the miniature strainers has an inscription which reads *Faustina vivit* (long live Faustina) which may have been a reference to the Faustina family. They were linked with the nearby Roman town of Villa Faustina, now Scone in Norfolk.

Michael Wood, the historian, says: "In those days family silver really meant the family silver. It is unlikely the treasure came from a temple because we would expect to see liturgical artefacts such as a candelabra."

So many coins of such good quality were buried that

Roman pay packets may have been part of the treasure. The coins were from Honoria, the last Roman emperor to rule Britain from AD 393-408, and of his co-emperor, Arcadius, AD 383-408. The chest containing the treasure is believed to have been buried between AD 400-420 when Honoria withdrew the last legions from Britain to defend the core of the empire.

In its account of the twilight years of the empire the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* describes how Romans hid their possessions just when the Hoxne treasure was buried. Referring to AD 418, the chronicle, which was started in the 9th century and is the main source for Anglo-Saxon history, says: "In this year the Romans collected all the treasures which were in Britain and hid

some in the earth so that no one afterwards could find them and some took with them into Gaul."

In the 5th century Romans in Britain were endangered by a confused mixture of invading Anglo-Saxons and feuding local dynasties. Mr Wood says: "It was not just a question of long-haired Saxons raping and pillaging their way round the country, it was a time of crisis and internecine warfare. It was a bit like the post colonial situation in Angola where there was a return to old feuds. Cities were collapsing, nobody maintained them and descendants of the old Iron Age took over in some areas."

The Romans in East Anglia were particularly vulnerable to Germanic attacks from across the sea. Their troubles were compounded when Rome, preoccupied with its own troubles, refused military aid to Britain in AD 410.

As the Romans' opulent lifestyle in Britain disintegrated they had to face a grim struggle to survive. Many were killed, others fled west to

Cornwall or Wales, although some did manage to assimilate into the local community.

This was a brutal contrast with their cosseted life in quieter times. Some Romans in the 5th century had accumulated such wealth that one woman, called Melania, had 100,000 slaves spread all over the empire. Her income in Britain rivaled imperial revenues.

The Suffolk Romans who buried the Hoxne treasure may not have been in Melania's league, but their lifestyle would have been sumptuous. Villas had hundreds of slaves and landowners, who inherited or were given estates as a reward for military service, probably did not have to bother with the day to day administration.

By a quirk of British law the ownership of the treasure is now sub judice until an inquest rules whether it belongs to the crown and is therefore a treasure trove. For this to be granted a jury will have to be persuaded next year that whoever buried the treasure intended to recover it.

SIMON WALKER



Lavish lifestyle: a typical Roman villa of the 4th century, this one in Kent, and a silver-gilt tea strainer found among the abandoned hoard

Latest wills

Mr Robert William Victor Gittings of East Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, the literary critic and biographer of Keats and Thomas Hardy, left estate valued at £128,453 net.

Mrs Rhian Markins, of London SW1, the first woman to become a bridge grandmaster, left estate valued at £326,275 net. She left a large number of bequests of effects and her home to personal legatees and her money in her Bridge account in the Woolwich Building Society to Gerry Knight, of London W14, to be used in accordance with her wishes to continue in her name the Duplicate Contract Bridge events initiated by her, namely the London V. Commons and the Eastern Guardian Congress, £1,000 to the Westminster Synagogue, for charitable purposes, the portraits of herself and Lord Lever by Judy Cassab, to the National Portrait Gallery, and the residue to the Weizmann Institute Foundation, London, in memory of herself, and my sister Eugenia Heier, her son Herbert Alfred and her husband Ignacy, who were killed in Lwów, Poland, by the Nazis at an unknown date.

Mr R Abdulah Khalifa, Mid S Ali Hamood, Mid S Khalef Fong, Mid H F Kaoje, Mid S Khalid Amor, Mid S Khamis Abdulla, Mid Mohd Ali, Mid K Mohd Rashid, Mid R Mohd Rashid, Mid N Obaid Ibrahim, Mid Rahim Akbar.

Mr Joseph William Weld, of

Lulworth Manor, Wareham, Dorset, Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset 1964-84, and High Sheriff 1951-52, Chairman of the Wessex Regional Health Authority, the Dorset branch of the County Landowners' Association and of the South Dorset Conservative Association, left estate valued at £1,533,691 net.

The Dowager Lady Letitia Sibell Winifred Hotham, of Dalton Holme, Beverley, North Humberside, Lady-in-Waiting to the Duchess of Gloucester 1935-37, and a Dame of the Royal Household, left a sum of £1,000 to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, events initiated by her, namely the London V. Commons and the Eastern

Guardian Congress, £1,000 to the Westminster Synagogue, for charitable purposes, the portraits of herself and Lord Lever by Judy Cassab, to the National Portrait Gallery, and the residue to the Weizmann Institute Foundation, London, in memory of herself, and my sister Eugenia Heier, her son Herbert Alfred and her husband Ignacy, who were killed in Lwów, Poland, by the Nazis at an unknown date.

Professor Cecil Howard Tonge of Jesmond, Tyne and Wear, former professor of Oral Anatomy at Newcastle University, left estate valued at £397,408 net.

Lady Joan Durie Denning, of Whitchurch, Hampshire, wife of Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, left estate valued at £119,078 net.

Mr Frank Odey of Didsbury, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,123,279 net. He died intestate.

Brigadier Terence Hugh Clarke,

of Chichester, West Sussex, former Conservative MP for Portsmouth West, and a director of the public relations firm of Colman, French and Varley, and of Sternberg & Co, left estate valued at £180,965 net.

Mrs Kathleen Elen Fell, of Budleigh Salterton, Devon, formerly of Lympstone, left estate valued at £672,951 net. She left personal legacies totalling £15,000 to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, and the residue equally between the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Cancer Research Fund.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mr Wilfred Neale, of Streatham, Surrey, £573,655 net.

Mr Arthur Cecil Joyce Harriet-Shaw, of Woldingham, Surrey £57,666.

Miss Florence Ida Scott Skirving, of Sevenoaks, Kent, £55,391 net.

Mrs Betty Lee Smith, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, £58,744 net.

Mrs Dorothy Emma Thompson, of Painswick, Gloucestershire, £831,574 net.

Mrs Patricia Elizabeth Barbara, of Rovenden, Kent, £769,310 net.

Mr Henry William Blackller, of Sheep, Petersfield, Hampshire, £516,545 net.

Mrs Edith Louise Chaldecott, of Honiton, West Sussex, £710,647 net.

Mr Victor Charles Derrid, of Tavistock, Devon, £522,541 net.

Miss Vivienne Ursula Adele Farara, of Highgate, London N6, £1,177,319 net.

Mrs Gwyneth Foster, of Morpeth, Northumberland, £580,117 net.

Nantgarw, Carmarthenshire, Dyfed £500,122 net.

Mr John Fawler, of Carterton, Oxfordshire, £602,620 net.

Mrs Jacqueline May Freeman, of Much Hadham, Herts, £696,263 net.

Mr Derek Clinton Lethers, of London SW18, £1,092,309 net.

Wimifred Elaine Lewis, of Treadham, Staffs, £920,629 net.

Mr William Henry Lowe, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, £2,306,777 net.

Mr John Schoder, of Curry Rivel, Somerset, £1,761,477 net.

Mrs Margaret Kate Shudder, of Bourne, Essex, £771,482 net.

Miss Violet Lingard Stevens, of Wimborne, Dorset, £945,810 net.

Mrs Elizabeth Clark, of London SW15, £540,298 net.

Mr Edward John Cawthron, of West Hants, £717,375 net.

Mr Daisy Lenore Denning, of Honiton, West Sussex, £710,647 net.

Mr Victor Charles Derrid, of Tavistock, Devon, £522,541 net.

Miss Vivienne Ursula Adele Farara, of Highgate, London N6, £1,177,319 net.

Mrs Gwyneth Foster, of Morpeth, Northumberland, £580,117 net.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Macintosh, pioneer of water-proofing, Glasgow, 1766; William Ewart Gladstone, prime minister 1868-74, 1880-85, 1886 and 1892-94, Liverpool, 1809; Pablo Casals, cellist, Vendrell, Spain, 1876.

DEATHS: Thomas a Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury 1162-70, murdered in Canterbury Cathedral, 1170; Thomas Sydenham, physician, London, 1689; Brook Taylor, mathematician, London, 1731; Christina Rossetti, poet, London, 1894; Sir William Oster, physician, Oxford, 1919; Dame Maria Rilke, poet, Vienna, Switzerland, 1926; Max Phillips, novelist, Broad Chalke, Wiltshire, 1960; Paul Whitman, headmaster, Jeyesfield, Tadcaster, Yorkshire, 1947; Sir Harold Macmillan, 1st Earl of Stockton, Prime Minister 1957-63,

OBITUARIES

LORD EDMUND-DAVIES

Lord Edmund-Davies, PC, High Court Judge, 1958-64; Lord Justice of Appeal, 1966-74; and a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary from 1974 to 1981, has died aged 86. He was born in Mountain Ash, South Wales, on July 15, 1906.

AMONG the most distinguished criminal lawyers of his generation, Lord Edmund-Davies will be remembered by the public at large — and by a grateful police force — for his achievements in three widely differing judicial spheres. He first caught the popular imagination in 1964 when he presided at the trial of those charged with what has gone down in the annals of crime as *The Great Train Robbery*, and the sentences he handed down to the 12 men convicted of stealing £2·5 million from a Glasgow-London mail train have acquired something of a mythological status for their uncompromising severity.

He next came before the public in a very different light. As a Welshman it was a peculiarly poignant matter for him to be appointed to chair the Tribunal of Inquiry into the Aberfan Disaster in 1966 — doubly so as he was himself a native of nearby Mountain Ash and had affinities with those who found themselves so cruelly bereaved when slag from a coal tip buried a village school.

Edmund-Davies's third difficult judicial task arose from his chairmanship of the Home Secretary's Police Inquiry which sat between 1977 and 1979. On the question of police pay, the most important and contentious part of the committee's deliberations, Lord Edmund-Davies was generally acknowledged to have done right by the force when he recommended substantial pay rises for police officers — indeed to have acted with some courage in making those awards both more generous and more speedily to be implemented than the government of the day might, strictly speaking, have wished them to be.

But these were merely three particularly emotive milestones in a career which took Edmund-Davies from school in Mountain Ash, through a distinguished career at the criminal Bar, war service in the legal branch of the Army and recorderships in his native Wales to eight years on the



criminal bench, eight years as a Lord Justice of Appeal and finally seven years as a Law Lord. Among his peers Edmund-Davies was remarked not only for the wisdom of his judgments but for a brilliancy of intellect which had shown itself from his earliest days, and which would have guaranteed him a career in academia had he not chosen the cut and thrust of the outside world and the criminal courts.

He was born Herbert Edmund Davies, the third son of Morgan John Davies and Elizabeth Maud Edmunds. After attending Mountain Ash Grammar School he went first to King's College, London, and then to Exeter College, Oxford. He took his

LLB (London) and became a postgraduate research scholar in 1926. He was placed first in the first class in the Bar finals examination. He became LLD (London) in 1928 and BCL (Oxon) and Vinerian scholar in 1929, the year in which he was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn. He also lectured and examined in law at LSE for the year 1930-1. As a barrister he built up a thriving practice in Swansea in the 1930s.

With war clouds gathering, he joined the Army Officers' Emergency Reserve in 1938 and in 1940 he was commissioned into the Royal Welch Fusiliers. But he was soon seconded to the Judge Advocate General's department and spent the latter part of the

war as Assistant Judge Advocate General with, from 1944, the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

In tandem with his military duties he had also been Recorder of Merthyr Tydfil from 1942 to 1944 and was subsequently Recorder of Swansea from 1944 to 1953 and of Cardiff from 1953 to 1958, the year in which he became a High Court Judge. Queen's Bench Division.

At the Bar on the Welsh circuit the forensic skills as a defence lawyer of Mr Edmund Davies (as he then was) often made the headlines; in 1952 he successfully defended Wilson Roberts in the locally-celebrated "Weedkiller Trial" at Swansea, while in the following year, at Glamorgan Assizes held at Cardiff, he

represented the defendant against a colourful prosecution for a murder committed at Laugharne. This was enlivened by the poet Dylan Thomas as having a word to say for the good character of the accused. The trial was the more remarkable for the fact that the accused, who was a deaf mute, did not, when the not guilty verdict was rendered, at first realise that Davies's advocacy on his behalf had been successful.

On the Bench Mr Justice Edmund Davies became as noted for the incisiveness of his judgments as he had been for the shrewd nature of his pleadings at the Bar. To this were allied qualities of tact, patience, lucid intelligence and stamina which made him the ideal man to preside over long, complex trials. As a judge he expressed his philosophy thus: "There are those who speak and write as though the sole object of punishment is the reform of the accused. I think this is so exceptionally benevolent as to be capable of being positively mischievous." This might seem to place him on the conservative wing of the judiciary, but he always felt that the concern he genuinely had for the rehabilitation of prisoners ought to be balanced by a concern for society at large and the damage suffered by those of its members who were victims of crime.

This showed itself in what was his most famous trial, at Aylesbury, that of 12 men charged with stealing £2·5 million from a mail train in Buckinghamshire in August 1963. In sentencing the 12 convicted men to a total of 307 years imprisonment — seven of them for 30 years each — Mr Justice Davies made it clear that he felt the men ought not to be allowed to benefit from the ill-gotten gains of their crime, which they might, if given only short sentences. This approach raised eyebrows in some quarters, but it was based on a deeply-meditated philosophy of sentencing and not on an emotional reaction. Indeed, the judge's evident understanding of the psychology of the leading members of the accused in this case won him wide admiration.

One of Edmund-Davies's first tasks on being appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal in September 1966 was to head the public inquiry into the circumstances of the Aberfan disaster in which 144 people,

including 116 children, had been killed. This was an emotive task for a man who had been brought up in the ethos of the valleys, but the choice of someone from such a background was welcomed as a sign that there would be no whitewash. In the event the report of the tribunal placed the blame for the disaster squarely on the National Coal Board and its officials and concluded that the tragedy "could and should have been prevented". The tribunal, in a report which pulled no punches, accused coal board officials of repeatedly disregarding warnings about the safety of the tip, even though a bad slide had already occurred.

The tribunal recommended a national tip safety committee to coordinate research, an inspectorate of qualified civil engineers and fresh legislation to protect the public. In all, his stewardship of the tribunal strengthened Edmund-Davies's reputation as a man of compassion as well as of forthrightness.

This sense of fairness continued to be in evidence when he became a Law Lord. His forthright approach to the problem of police pay was much admired as being the only honest solution to the problem. Settlements which in some cases meant rises of 45 per cent over two years for individual officers drew hardly any public or press criticism even in a period of extreme economic hardship for the country at large during the twilight of the last Labour government; this was a tribute to Edmund-Davies's grasp of the deep-seated nature of the police grievance over pay. The ladies on the force were not quite so impressed when, in the following year, Edmund-Davies came down against too great an increase in the number of women police officers on the grounds that the fair sex was not strong enough to carry out its duties as effectively as the male.

Retiring in 1981, Edmund-Davies continued active, not relinquishing the pro-chancellorship of the University of Wales which he had held since 1974, until 1985. He was a life governor and fellow of King's College, London, and an hon fellow of Exeter College, Oxford.

His wife, Eurwen, whom he married in 1935, died last year. He leaves three daughters.

APPRECIATIONS

Ralph Izzard

YOUR obituary of Ralph Izzard (December 15), while comprehensive, could hardly have encompassed all aspects of his often extraordinary behaviour, nor, indeed, his charity in applying such amazing breadth and depth of knowledge of the Middle East mosaic to the benefit of non-journalist colleagues and friends.

In 1975 I arrived in Bahrain, recently having left the Army at 28 and, although an Arabist, without commercial experience. My job was to set up, from scratch, a public/government relations scale, for Cable & Wireless.

Introduced at a Reuters



party set off for the very foundation of Arabia Felix. We landed on the main road near the dam and after a somewhat desultory dissertation by Ralph, which interrupted a serious picnic, we took off for the flight back to the medieval capital. Drink had been taken.

A substantial party developed at the rear of the plane and, as we glissaded down through the 14,000 foot mountain passes, banking and diving while those who could still see looked up at the precipitous crags, the UPDN man pointed out that the pilot had joined our revelry. A Scottish correspondent was dispatched to the cockpit to see who, if anyone, was doing a very good impression of a fighter ground-attack approach.

And there was the elderly AFP/Mail chap, Panama-hatted and red-silk neckerchiefed, clutching the control column and a very large glass of whisky with equal ferocity. It is not recorded if Ralph Izzard had any flying qualifications (and, in any case, the Chinese pilot was persuaded to resume his duties).

Many years later, when I was advising General Aoun in Lebanon, I rang Ralph at his home in Tunbridge Wells, and his vociferous recommendation was "... have nothing to do with the Camel Corps at Clive House..."

He was right.

Bill Bird

Richard Tompkins

WITH regard to the obituary of Richard Tompkins (December 9), I was chairman and chief executive of Tesco at the time that we ceased to run trading stamps, and I must agree that Richard Tompkins was not only a major influence in British retailing in the 1960s and 1970s, he was also an exceptionally honourable man. One incident typifies his decency and straightforwardness.



In June 1977 I told him that Tesco were discontinuing the Green Shield contract that had been so successful for each of our companies. We felt it was time to change. Inflation was the number one public worry, we launched an advertising campaign under Sir John Cohen's name, the company's founder, stressing no gimmicks just high quality and low prices. Tesco reverted to its traditional appeal as a value for money grocer.

It wasn't easy to break the news to Richard. We had worked closely together. I knew our decision would hurt him. But not as much as it did, for when I finally got through to him his immediate reaction was to point out that 12 months notice of cancellation was required.

But this was not the case. The 12 months rolling notice period only applied to his side of the contract, not ours.

Sir Leslie Porter

The Rev Alan Ecclestone

YOUR obituary of Alan Ecclestone (December 17) is very informative, but the passing reference to "the participatory parish meeting" does not do justice to his pioneering of a

movement which has transformed the entire Church of England — namely the Parish Communion (with parish breakfast as the only service on a Sunday morning), an experience uniting the whole congregation.

Dr Chad Varah

SIR AUBREY ELLWOOD



Air Marshal Sir Aubrey Ellwood, KCB, DSC, AOC-in-C, Bomber Command, 1947-50, died on December 20 aged 95. He was born on July 3, 1897, at Oakham, Rutland.

THE man put in charge of Britain's first line of defence at the beginning of the Cold War, Aubrey Beauchamp Ellwood began his career as a fighter pilot in the first world war when he shot down eight enemy aircraft. He was one of the last survivors of the Royal Naval Air Service.

The son of a rector, he was commissioned in the air service in 1916 and was awarded the DSC in April 1918 when he transferred to the Royal Air Force, was given a permanent commission and was sent to India for four years.

Returning home, he spent six years on technical duties at the RAF training school in Buckinghamshire before returning to India on flying duties and later as squadron commander for a year. He was then transferred to staff duties, at first in India and subsequently in Britain at the headquarters of Fighter Command.

An instructor at the RAF staff college for several years,

ERIKA BRAUSEN



Erika Brausen, one of the most influential London art dealers in the 1950s and 1960s, died in Düsseldorf on December 16 aged 84. She was born in 31, 1908.

BETWEEN 1950 and 1970 the Hanover Gallery, just off Hanover Square, was the first port of call in London for anyone wishing to know what was new and good in art. Its summer shows could always be relied on to include major works by Henry Moore, Alberto Giacometti and others such as Marino Marini and Louise Nevelson, who were first introduced to the British public by the gallery.

All of these artists became personal friends of the Hanover's director, Erika Brausen. They appreciated her enthusiasm and when Moore was becoming the most famous sculptor in the world he always gave her first choice from his studio for her exhibitions.

Not was she interested only in grand, established figures. She was one of the few gallery directors never to be afraid of making mistakes and was always open to the work of newer, younger, untried artists. If the artist failed to develop, that was unfortunate — but frequently her first

responses were totally justified. She established long associations with César after giving him his first London showing and with Eduardo Paolozzi, climaxing in the major retrospective she arranged in Düsseldorf in 1965.

Educated in Düsseldorf she went to study in Paris when she was 20, shocked at the way her contemporaries in Germany were anticipating the coming power of the Nazis. In Paris she worked with a left-wing bookshop, staging art events and small exhibitions in the basement. She was in Spain during the civil war not because she supported either side but because people there

needed help and she felt impelled to offer it.

She came to London in 1939 and worked with Karsley Knollys in his Storran Gallery in Albany Court Gardens. From there she graduated to the Redfern Gallery, and in 1948 she opened the Hanover Gallery in partnership with the wealthy American émigré Arthur Jeffress. Their tastes were very different, and before long the partnership broke up, Jeffress going off to set up his own gallery. At this point the banker Michael Behrens wandered into the Hanover Gallery, got into conversation with Karsley and by the end of the afternoon had agreed to give financial backing.

The vital new movements in European art were beginning to filter into a Britain remained conservative in its tastes by years of wartime isolation.

Erika, with her wide artistic contacts throughout Western Europe, was the perfect person to remedy this and the trendsetting exhibitions came thick and fast.

Financial problems forced her to close the Hanover Gallery finally in 1973, but she continued to work with the Gimpel-Hanover Gallery in Zurich until that closed in 1984. Thereafter she lived quietly in London.

The Rev Alan Ecclestone

YOUR obituary of Alan Ecclestone (December 17) is very informative, but the passing reference to "the participatory parish meeting" does not do justice to his pioneering of a

movement which has transformed the entire Church of England — namely the Parish Communion (with parish breakfast as the only service on a Sunday morning), an experience uniting the whole congregation.

Dr Chad Varah

Church news

Resignations and retirements The Rev Canon Austin Masters, Canon Residentiary of Hereford Cathedral, Bishop's Co-ordinator for Ministry, and a Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral (Hereford); to retire as from June 30, 1993.

The Rev Graham Lynch-Watson, Vicar, St Paul's, Warwick (Coventry); retired as from August 31.

The Rev Don Philpott, Vicar, St Mary Magdalene, Lillington (Coventry); retired as from October 31.

The Rev Derrick Tooby, Vicar, St Andrew's, Eastern Green, Coventry (Coventry); retired as from October 30.

The Rev Canon Desmond Treanor, Rector, Great Bowden, Wetherby, Gloucester and Crone (Leicester); to retire as

from April 30, 1993 (resigning as Rural Dean of Garret J as from March 31, 1993).

Church of Scotland

The Rev Christopher Legard to Bayard with Ordignall and Cornhill

Ordinations and Inductions

The Rev Richard T Corbett to Bruxton.

The Rev James S A Cowan from Cockenzie and Port Seton Old to Ardgowan, Greenock.

The Rev Carleen Robertson to Eassie & Nevay with Newtyle.

The Rev Margaret Yule to Radnor Park, Cydewyfan

Ordained and introduced

The Rev Janet P H MacMahon, Hospital Chaplain at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow.

The Rev G Alan S Stirling from Hilton, Inverness to

Leochel, Cuthrie & Lynturk with Trough.

Retirements

The Rev Ian M W Collins from Central Parish Church, Darvel.

The Very Rev William J G McDonald from Mayfield, Edinburgh.

The Rev John H Robertson from North Parish Church, Saltcoats.

Church in Wales

The Rev John Glover, Chaplain to the Children's Family Trust has been nominated as Incumbent of Haikyn, Caerfawr and Rhesycae.

The Rev Fraser M C Stewart from Ardler, Kettins & Meigle to Kymyndis (Llandaff), to be Vicar of Welshpool and Castle Caereinion (St Asaph).

The Rev Roger Brown, Vicar of Tongwynlais (Llandaff), to be Vicar of Welshpool and Castle Caereinion (St Asaph).

ON THIS DAY

December 29 1910

A "shabby-dressed woman", a woman "well dressed and wearing furs", and a governess were all sent to prison for three months for stealing items from Selfridge's store in Oxford Street, London.

Jessie Reeves, 42, well dressed, wearing furs, described as a married woman, living in Stroud Green-road, N., surrendered to her bail to answer the remanded charge of stealing eight handkerchiefs, a pendant, a pencil-case, and other articles, together of the value of £5 15s. 9d., the property of the same firm.

She refused to give her address, saying she did not wish to get her

NEWS

Bush threatens military action

■ President Bush has threatened to take military action against Serbia if the Balkan conflict spreads to the province of Kosovo, where tensions have been rising between Serbs and the ethnic Albanian majority.

His warning to Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, is the first sign that America would be willing to become embroiled in the conflict, and marks an escalation in the verbal war between Washington and Belgrade..... Page 1.6

Protection urged for women officers

■ The Police Federation has called for better protection for female officers as a policewoman fought for her life in hospital. WPC Lesley Harrison, 29, whose heart was punctured in an attack on Sunday, was said to be in a "very serious condition" after emergency surgery..... Page 1.3

Speeding up change

John Smith is to speed up modernisation of the Labour party to answer criticism of his "softly softly" style of leadership, but he has refused to be stampeded into making quick solutions to win short-term popular support..... Page 2

Rescuers divided

Lifeboatmen have leapt to the defence of their boats after a crew at Flamborough Head, Humberside, voted to stop manning its station if its 30-year-old all-weather boat is replaced by a faster craft. The crew believes that the inflatable boat will be unable to cope with the local rocks..... Page 3

Buying abroad

The Royal Air Force could be operating a fleet of up to 100 aircraft built in Russia and Ukraine by the end of the century under plans now being considered by the Ministry of Defence. Eastern bloc countries are stepping up attempts to break into the commercial and military equipment market..... Page 4

Asking for help

The parents of Johanna Young, the 14-year-old girl found dead on Saturday in a water-filled pit, said they believed that their daughter knew her murderer. They appealed for witnesses to come forward..... Page 3

Living in fear

Iraq's Shia Muslims say that President Saddam Hussein is

Consuming passion in the playroom

■ Sales of anything from soups to packet noodles may soon rise dramatically because of a new high-technology toy that can be powered by bar codes. Just when parents were learning to share their children with Super Mario, Sonic The Hedgehog and other computer-games characters, Barcode Battler is about to hit the market..... Page 3



Consumer crush: thousands of shoppers braving the cold in search of sale bargains in London's Oxford Street yesterday. Page 1

BUSINESS

Coal cuts: British Coal has hired consultants to advise the firm on cuts among the 3,000 non-colliery management..... Page 32

Swiss blow: Georg Reisch, head of EFTA, says in a *Times* interview that the decision by the Swiss not to join the single market threatens economic growth..... Page 29

BBC competition: Cable Network News, the American broadcaster, is to double its world budget to an estimated \$80 billion next year. Competition from the BBC's new World Service Television..... Page 32

SPORT

Bowled out: Aqib Javed, the Pakistani fast bowler, became the first player to be suspended under the International Cricket Council's code of conduct. He was banned for one match after being found guilty of dissent during the one-day international against New Zealand in Napier yesterday. He allegedly swore at an umpire..... Page 22

Still unbeaten: Manchester United moved into second place in the Premier League yesterday with a 5-0 victory over Coventry City at Old Trafford. Goals from Ryan Giggs, Mark Hughes, Eric Cantona, Lee Sharpe and Denis Irwin extended United's unbeaten run to seven matches..... Page 17

Tarnished image: Everton's image as one of the fairest teams in the Premier League suffered in their 4-2 defeat at Queens Park Rangers when Neville Southall and Paul Rideout were sent off..... Page 17

LAW

A question of knowledge: Fed up with television? Take some mental exercise with The Times/Nabarro Nanson Quiz of the Legal Year..... Page 26

THEATRE

Spell of a cast: Benedict Nightingale recalls the most magical moment he experienced in a year's theatre-going, provided by Eileen Atkins in an otherwise uneven National Theatre production. Page 10

MODERN TIMES

Over and out: Going to sit right down and write myself a letter... when an agony aunt gets the sack, what is her advice to herself? Virginia Ironside on taking a dose of her own medicine..... Page 23

Private education: With one privatised jail in operation, the captive market-place is seen as a fresh chance for the nation's entrepreneurial spirit, and the education sector is no exception..... Page 10

FESTIVALS OF BRITAIN

Russian bearings: The Bolshoi Ballet is taking over the Albert Hall for five weeks from January 9, an opportunity on the grand scale to re-establish itself as a front-rank company..... Page 23

Festivals of Britain: As evidence

of widespread uncertainty among administrators, Richard Morrison asks whether the multiplicity of arts festivals is of real value to anybody apart from paid performers..... Page 24

CINEMA

Happy families: For a family to be

as healthy as possible it should be

optimistic, believe in God and be

led by a traditional male. That is

just one implication of a research

project in California that has been

studying the effects family life can

have on parents' health..... Page 11

Side effects: Suffering from a post-

Christmas cold? Then you might

think twice before buying an over-

the-counter cure. According to a

consultant surgeon some deconges-

tants can render men impotent,

albeit temporarily..... Page 11

Good habits: Dr Thomas Stutta-

ford on ways to adopt a healthier

lifestyle that need not be

strenuous..... Page 11

An obscure 19th-century opera is relocated in contemporary London, laced with sex and gore and served up in mighty instalments. *The Vampyr — A Soap Opera* (BBC2, 9pm)..... Page 31

A flight too far

This week's shooting down of the Iraqi aircraft is just one more reminder that the UN's job is incomplete, and may remain unfinished so long as Saddam sits in Baghdad..... Page 13

Welcome home, Tarka

The otter's return to Devon is an example of sensible conservation, and should act as a model for the rescue of other endangered species, which include, in the long run, Man himself..... Page 13

Days of reckoning

(from December 29, 1952)
How many times in the last four weeks, and in how many different contexts, have we said "Let's leave it until after Christmas"..... Page 13

JANET DALEY

What was the most serious mistake of the Thatcher era? Not the poll tax or entering the exchange-rate mechanism. More disastrous was the belief that owning property was the route to freedom. Only now, knee-deep in the wreckage caused by that fallacy, are the Conservatives proposing to revive private-rented housing..... Page 12

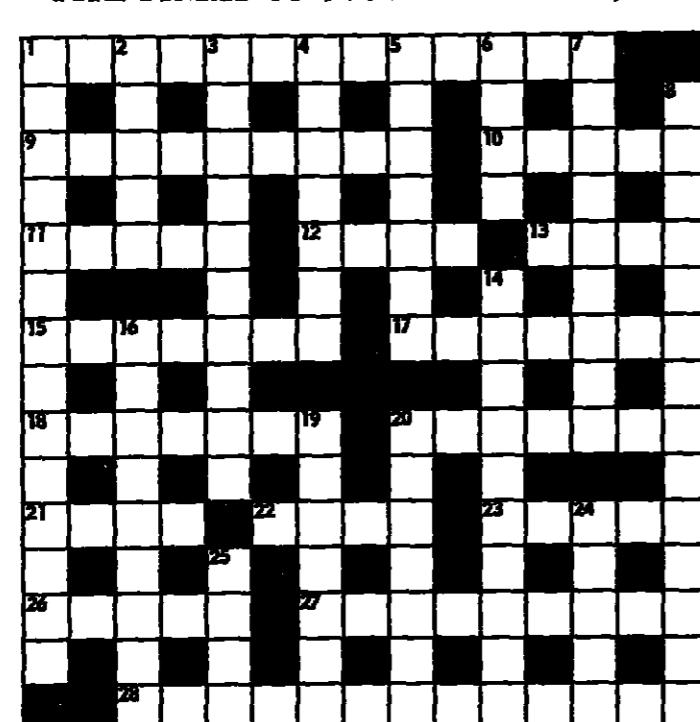
CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN
The deportation of the 415 Hamas members is the biggest mistake made by Yitzhak Rabin, during his term as prime minister. That said, some of the international reactions to the deportations have been excessive, as is often the case when Israel is in the news..... Page 12

"Options for Fudge" is how Adm. of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton describes planned reductions in the army's infantry battalions. "Happy Christmas, Mum": a Wimblod reader records her best cracker present ever..... Page 13

The ambitious United Nations effort to make Cambodia viable is in trouble. A successful Cambodian operation could be a prototype for temporary UN administration elsewhere. That gives Washington a powerful incentive to nudge the UN operation back on track

The New York Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,113



SPORT 17-22

Aqib Javed given first ICC suspension

BUSINESS 28-32

Anatole Kaletsky reflects on his 1992 predictions

ARTS 23-25

Eileen Atkins: theatrical magic of the year

TELEVISION AND RADIO Page 31

THE TIMES 2

TUESDAY DECEMBER 29 1992

Coventry collapse at Old Trafford as Premier League favourites get into their stride

Superb United step up title challenge

**Manchester United..... 5
Coventry City..... 0**

By LOUISE TAYLOR

A CROWD of more than 36,000 left Old Trafford yesterday convinced that they had been watching the inaugural Premier League champions Manchester United. An irresistible attacking performance, prompted by an outstanding display from Paul Ince in midfield, reduced Coventry to no more than hapless victims.

Goals from Ryan Giggs, Mark Hughes, Eric Cantona, Lee Sharpe and Denis Irwin extended United's unbeaten run to seven matches and left them second in the Premier League, three points behind Norwich City. The leaders, who were held to a goalless draw by Leeds United.

As Bobby Gould, the Coventry manager, said: "We were beaten by a very good side. I feel I am six years and £60 million behind Alex Ferguson [the United manager]. Some of their football was a delight to behold and Paul Ince was a colossus in the midfield, while Cantona has added a new dimension up front."

United's 2-0 half-time lead flattered Coventry's supine performance. Without detracting from United, it was hard, very hard, to believe that Coventry had put eight goals past Liverpool and Aston Villa in their last two games or that Mick Quinn, who barely got a touch yesterday, had scored ten times in his last six matches. Indeed, Steve Ognizovic, the goalkeeper who is being kept out of the first team by Jonathan Gould, the manager's son, must have been mightily relieved to be seated on the substitutes' bench.

To his credit, Gould Jr undoubtedly kept the score down, limiting the damage with a string of fine saves — one from Hughes in particular sticking in the memory. In front of him, the overwhelmed Coventry defence had Gould Sr repeatedly on his feet, despairingly jabbing his fingers in their direction.

Mavericks they may be, but there was nothing to suggest



Floored: Crosby, of Nottingham Forest, left, finds Thorsvedt and Edinburgh, of Tottenham, blocking his path at White Hart Lane yesterday. Report, page 19

Kenny Sansom, Coventry's veteran left back, will not relish watching the match video. He was given a thorough working over by Giggs and must have been left dizzy by the young Welshman, deployed on his less-preferred right-wing. It was Giggs who gave United the lead after six minutes. Ince carved himself a path down the left and crossed for Cantona to attempt a header. Coventry partly cleared the danger, but, before they could breath a sigh of relief, Giggs, lurking on the right, curled a shot just inside the far post.

Mavericks they may be, but

that Hughes and Cantona cannot function fruitfully in tandem. Quite the contrary, both could have had two goals apiece before Hughes made it 2-0 after 40 minutes. Giggs went down the right before cutting inside Sansom, and Cantona fed the ball to Hughes, whose shot eluded Gould. It was Hughes's eleventh goal of the season and his fifth since the arrival of Leeds.

The gulf in class was

emphasised in the 64th minute, when Babb handled Parker's cross in the area and Cantona converted the penalty. Fourteen minutes later, Cantona prompted further

choruses of "Ooh ah" by creating United's fourth for Sharpe to beat Gould from six yards. It was Sharpe's first goal of the season and, ince apart, he was a strong contender for man of the match.

Sharpe was, understandably, delighted with his effort. "I have been disappointed not to have scored in the last few games and it's nice to get off the mark and I have not taken part in a better team performance," he said. "It is so much easier to play when the team is performing like that. We all work for each other and there is a great team spirit."

By the time Ince claimed No. 5 in the 87th minute, no one inside Old Trafford believed the championship could possibly go anywhere else. Indeed, few outside thought that either. As the result echoed around the country, United's title odds were cut by William Hill from 2-1 to 7-4 clear favourites.

Alex Ferguson was the exception. "After what happened to us last season, I am not making any predictions about the championship," the Manchester United manager said. "But the fact we created about 15 chances underlined the confidence in our side. I was apprehensive about Cov-

entry because, with players like Mick Quinn, they have a lot of goals in them, but our passing was good and we didn't let them into the last third of the pitch. I enjoyed it."

Perhaps he should send

Norwich, Aston Villa and the rest of his rivals a copy of the

MANCHESTER UNITED: P Schmeichel; P Parker, D Bailey, S Bruce (sub: M Fletcher), L Sharpe, G Pollster, E Cantona, P Ince, B McLean, M Hughes, R Giggs (sub: A Naylor); D Babb, D Parker, S. (sub: D. Parker); GOVENTRY CITY: J Gould; B Bowring, P Babb, P Atherton, K Sansom, J Williams (sub: P Naylor), L McGrath, L Hust, R Rosario, K Gaffney.

Report, page 19

Liverpool head, page 19

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Field day for Pipe

Martin Pipe saddled the first four home in the Coral Welsh National when Run For Free was followed home by stable companions Riverside Boy, Münchhorna and Bonanza Boy.

Pipe, who has now won four of the last five runnings of the Chepstow race, went on to complete a 602-1 five-timer at the Gwent course with Claxton Greene, Lord Relic, Side of Hill and The Black Monk. Pipe's bonanza, page 20

Newcastle lose heavily

Newcastle United suffered their worst defeat of the season when they were beaten 4-2 by Oxford United at the Manor Ground. Kevin Keegan's side still has a 12-point lead at the top of the first division as both Tranmere Rovers and West Ham United failed to win.

Page 18

On the rack

West Indies are struggling to avoid defeat in the second Test match against Australia. Craig McDermott, the fast bowler, took four wickets in seven overs on the third day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground as West Indies were dismissed for 233, giving Australia a first-innings lead of 162. W Indies wicket, page 22

Feast of rugby

Leicester won their annual Christmas encounter with the Barbarians 41-23 in a feast of attacking rugby. A crowd of 16,400 at Welford Road witnessed a match containing ten tries. Barbarians avoided a heavy defeat with three tries in the last quarter.

Page 20

Southall backed by united crowd

EVERTON, who before yesterday shared the best disciplinary record in the Premier League with Nottingham Forest, had Neville Southall and Paul Rideout sent off as they were beaten 4-2 at Queens Park Rangers. Andy Sinton scored his first hat-trick for the winners.

Southall was dismissed after 18 minutes when Gerald Ashby, the referee, judged him guilty of denying Lee Ferdinand a scoring opportunity when he handled outside the penalty area. But the ball was rolling away from Ferdinand and Dave Watson blocked his path to goal.

The crowd showed their disgust at the decision by giving Southall a standing ovation as he trudged off shaking his head.

Everton had previously had only nine bookings in 21 Premier League matches, but could have had less cause for complaint when Rideout fol-

Norwich rue a missed penalty

**Leeds United..... 0
Norwich City..... 0**

By IAN ROSS

ALTHOUGH Norwich will enter the new year with a three-point advantage at the head of the Premier League, the fact that they are still able to boast such a lead after accruing two points from their last four games, in which they have failed to score, speaks volumes for the shortcomings of some of those teams in pursuit.

Indeed, a five-point cushion

had Bowen not missed a

penalty early in the game. But

Leeds, the fumbling and fallible defending champions,

would, with some justification,

be able to plead gross

injustice had they tumbled to

yet another defeat.

For despite the clumsiness

of most of their approach play,

they enjoyed the lion's share of

the possession and made most

of the chances in what was a rather shabby spectacle to set before another capacity crowd. But, if nothing else, the game may well have helped to convince the Leeds players that enthusiasm, when not allied to a sense of purpose and direction, does remain a largely redundant commodity at this level.

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, had officially pronounced dead his team's chances of retaining the title after Saturday's defeat by Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park, the seventh reverse in nine outings.

In yesterday's pre-match address to the faithful, Wilkinson, in suitably reverential tones, had expressed his disappointment at recent events while re-emphasising his faith in the abilities of those players who have been instrumental in transforming the fortunes of the Yorkshire club over the past four seasons.

However, with the halfway point in the present campaign

now past, and with relegation still a possibility, if remaining highly unlikely, it is difficult to see how much longer the phrase, "It will eventually come right", can be bandied around Elland Road with any degree of conviction.

With 20 games remaining, time could not be said to be running out, but even so, the patience of supporters who have become accustomed to better things, is clearly beginning to wear thin.

Predictably, Mike Walker, the manager of Norwich, was largely unconcerned about the fate of his hosts. "We are the best side in it so far, but I will have to wait for another two months before I can say if we have a chance to go on and win it," he said.

At the moment, the pressure is still very much on those other teams who are expected to be up there with us, at the top.

Norwich's chance of a win in a

fractious game of much effort

but of no discernible quality

came and went in the tenth minute when the referee, Philip Don, an annoyingly over-pedantic figure, decreed Sterland's challenge on Fox to be illegal.

It was, perhaps, a somewhat harsh assessment, and many thought that justice had prevailed when Bowen's kick drifted several feet wide of Lukic's left-hand post.

Thereafter, Leeds pushed and cajoled their way to within sight of their opponents' goal before shooting from a variety of unsympathetic angles and distances.

Tactically naive though the play may have been, it almost proved to be successful on several occasions, notably 14 minutes before the final whistle, when a Sterland volley missed its intended target by a matter of only a few inches.

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At the moment, the pressure is still very much on those other teams who are expected to be up there with us, at the top.

Norwich's chance of a win in a

fractious game of much effort

but of no discernible quality

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Yeovil warm up for Arsenal with win in local derby

By RUSSELL KEMPSON



AMID the housing and industrial estates on the outskirts of Yeovil, a futuristic construction breaks the skyline. At first glance, it looks like a hypermarket. But this is Huish Park, home of Yeovil Town since 1990 and the venue for the most fascinating of Saturday's FA Cup third-round ties. Yeovil, the GM Vanguards Conference, against Arsenal, the Premier League.

Yeovil know all about Cup fever — they hold the non-

league record of 16 victories over League opposition —

and yesterday, five days be-

fore the main event queues

snaked around the ground.

As eagerly as derby match-

es against Bath are awaited,

the game was not the attrac-

tion. Vouchers for the

Arsenal match were the

prize. "I can't believe it

Quenning to get in to a Yeovil

game," one disbelieving reg-

ular muttered before trudg-

ing of 200 yards to the end

of the line.

Huish Park is not the

FOOTBALL

Oxford resist attempted comeback by Newcastle

NEWCASTLE United, the runaway leaders of the first division, suffered their worst defeat of the season yesterday — and only their fourth in 23 league games — when they were beaten 4-2 by Oxford United at the Manor Ground.

In a thrilling encounter, Newcastle twice trailed by two goals before hauling themselves back into contention, before a spectacular free kick by Jim Magilton eight minutes from the end killed them off.

Kevin Keegan's side still has a 12-point lead at the top of the table for both their nearest pursuers, Tranmere Rovers and West Ham United, failed to win.

John Durkin ran from what looked an offside position to give Oxford the lead, but there was no doubt the quality of the second, five minutes later, when Beauchamp raced past three defenders and Cusack hit home the cross.

Newcastle responded immediately with a spectacular 20-yard volley by O'Brien, but after 34 minutes Howey, but after 34 minutes Howey, was adjudged to have brought down Allen, and Magilton converted the penalty.

Again Newcastle struck back through Lee Clark six minutes before the break, but although the visitors swarmed forward in the second half, they created few chances against a defence well-marshalled by Metivier and Evans.

Keegan said afterwards: "We were below our best and a couple of dubious decisions didn't help. Durkin was two yards offside for the first goal and Steve Howey is adamant he didn't foul in the penalty area."

"Oxford worked hard. They played good football and deserved to win, but they got the decisions and we didn't."

Tranmere missed their chance to make up ground by losing 3-1 to Barnsley at Oakwell after conceding a goal within 30 seconds. Their cause was not helped when John Aldridge, normally so reliable, missed a fifth-minute penalty.

West Ham seemed to have their game against Luton Town at Upton Park won when Brearley lashed in a fierce 20-yard shot against his former club to make it 2-0 after 66 minutes. But straight from the kick-off, Hughes burst through to beat



Rare error: John Aldridge, the Tranmere Rovers forward, missed a penalty in the fifth minute as his team were beaten 3-1 by Barnsley at Oakwell yesterday

Stoke keep up their winning sequence

Stoke City..... 2
Rotherham United..... 0

BY DENNIS SHAW

THE temptation to regard promotion and probably the second division championship as a formality for Stoke hardened with every favourable result they achieve. They are a team which gives the impression of having forgotten how to lose a league game.

Rotherham, second in the division before Saturday's postponement, were the victims of Stoke's seventh successive victory in an unbeaten sequence of 18 stretching back to September 2.

Ending the year with a nine-point lead at the top, Stoke are

achieving much the same kind of monopoly of their promotion issue as Newcastle United in the division above.

"As the weeks have passed and the wins have rolled in we have started to look extremely difficult to beat," Lou Macari, the Stoke manager, said in his understatement.

"We have a few problems in terms of injuries and suspensions ahead, but if we get more gates of 21,000, like today, we will be able to go out and strengthen our squad."

Rotherham, indeed, looked capable of the more controlled football had Stoke allowed them such refinements. But it was only when in the 41st minute, Beeston headed in a finely-placed chip by Russell on the left that Rotherham were increasingly chasing a lost cause.

There persisted the lingering danger of Rotherham's effort being rewarded with a

cautious manner of relentlessly moving forward.

Rotherham arrived with an impressive record of their own, having lost only twice in the previous 18 starts. For much of the first half they matched Stoke in the pursuit of possession and might have taken an early lead when Laws failed to convert an inviting opening.

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goal though it was Mercer who was required to perform the heroics at the other end.

In the space of one spell of 60 seconds, he saved from Gleghorn, Foley and Sandiford. His most spectacular stop, however, was from a deflection by his own defender, Johnson. Home supporters' fears were not finally removed until the 81st minute when Foley hit the roof of the net from 20 yards.

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Doubts about Guentchev cast cloud over Ipswich



Kiwomya: late winner

MORE than ever, Ipswich Town will be hoping that the Bulgarian Football Association has not been economical with the truth. Bonecho Guentchev, whose qualifying credentials for a work permit are under scrutiny by Lancashire County, scored the first of Ipswich's two goals in the last ten minutes of a spectacular 2-1 victory over Blackburn Rovers at Portman Road yesterday.

Starting in only his second match, it was Guentchev's first goal for his new club and throughout he was mobile and imaginative, even if his three previous scoring opportunities had been snatched at and mis-hit. That did not deter his confidence, nor the crowd's enthusiasm for him. This

and neither did the six stiches in his shin at half-time.

Doubts remain about whether Guentchev has the required number of international appearances to conform with work permit regulations — which could be withdrawn — but there was no doubt about his nimble overhead shot, with his back to goal, that put Ipswich level seven minutes after Wegerle had snatched the lead for Blackburn.

The Ipswich management of John Lyall and Mick McGivern are self-evidently embarrassed by the question mark over Guentchev. At his post-match press conference, McGivern was evasive to the point of being surly, eventually turning on his heel. This

was a pity at a moment when Ipswich are in a marvellous position to capitalise, by expansive public relations, on the club's outstanding performance following promotion and their potential challenge for the Premier League title.

The lob by Kiwomya, with Blackburn's goalkeeper Minnows stranded way off his line, brought Ipswich's largest crowd of the season, 21,431, to a crescendo of excitement. Yet the first 70 minutes had

been conspicuous for missed chances, spoiling tactics and more unintentional ricochets than you will see in a public bar game of snooker.

Wegerle's goal, a surprising snap shot from 23 yards when unmarked, was one of only three his side had in the match — the others coming from a header by Marker that grazed the crossbar midway through the first half and Wegerle's own drive near to half-time, parried by Baker.

Ipswich will not be dwelling too much on the inelegant character of much of the match. The result widens Blackburn's gap behind Norwich City to four points and narrows Ipswich's to five and as Kenny Dalglish observed afterwards, any team is going to find it difficult to break down Ipswich's compact, competitive formation. For a while, however, it had looked as though Blackburn might give Ipswich a taste of the medicine that Lyall's team had prescribed a week ago for Norwich.

Ipswich have a mixed performance. Their more rugged face was apparent at Carrow Road; now, they continuously attempted to construct penetrating moves, primed by

Williams and Dozzell from the centre of midfield, thrusting the more negative obligations upon Blackburn. For 20 minutes prior to Wegerle's goal, the game had been flowing wholly towards Minnows and the resolute Hendry in front of him.

Besides Moran, Blackburn were also without Shearer out of action. Dalglish hopes only briefly, with a knee injury, Wegerle worked energetically to fill the breach and, each side of half-time, had Ipswich scrambling to cover their lines.

Then the home team took charge, with Kiwomya leading Hendry and company to a crescendo of excitement, only for Blackburn to jump in front.

Ipswich hit back. From a

ROY BEARDSWORTH

corner on the left, Kiwomya hit the underside of the bar and a sea of Blackburn bodies, like some frenzied gathering of crowds, lashed out with random limbs to kick the ball away. From an immediate throw on the right, Johnson put the ball back in the middle and Guentchev seized his moment.

The winner came as Minnows advanced 12 yards or more, only to miss a cross and Kiwomya, with calm presence of mind, lobbed for the empty net, Hendry helping the ball in.

PSWICH TOWN: C Baker, G Johnson, N Thompson, M Stockdale, D. Williams, D. Lingard, D. Shearer, J. Kiwomya, C. Dozzell, C. Kiwomya.

BLACKBURN ROVERS: B Minnows, D. Moran, A. Wright, M. Barnes, C. Hendry, N. Manner, A. Townsend, D. Lee, M. Donaghy, S. Ripley, R. Wegerle, M. Newell, J. Wilson.

Referee: A Gunn.

Spoils shared as Liverpool end losing run

Vintage strike by Rush improves spirits at Anfield

Liverpool 1
Manchester City 1

By DAVID POWELL

IN THEIR next match, Liverpool begin their defence of the FA Cup and, increasingly, their season appears to depend on another appearance at Wembley. Yesterday, they stopped the rot which had set in during their previous two matches, but the championship still looks a long way off.

"The FA Premier League championship is not decided until May," Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, said in a brief statement of hope in his programme notes. A goal of spectacular quality by Ian

Rush, after Manchester City had gone ahead, keeps those hopes flickering.

But Liverpool could have done with three points after their 5-1 defeat at Coventry City, preceded by their elimination from the Coca-Cola Cup. Souness made two changes. Nicol replacing Wright and McManaman ousting Stewart.

In the first quarter of an hour, City were overrun, but the early portents did not look good for Rush, who had scored only twice in the league this season. He headed wide from a Walters cross then had a teasing fourteenth-minute delivery by Redknapp knocked from his path by Hill.

In between, Marsh tried a

drive from the edge of the area, the ball missing the bar narrowly and rising all the way over the first row of the Kop. In the biting cold, Barnes wore his black gloves and, on 80 minutes, he was burying his head in them. Unmarked from three yards out, he headed over what should have been the winner.

The early onslaught over, City began to show their worth. Flitcroft angled a low shot past Hooper but beyond the last post. Then Hooper blocked Quinn as the Liverpool defence remained briefly to holiday mode.

White had a seemingly good goal disallowed for off-side against Flitcroft before Quinn headed City ahead after 39 minutes. Two minutes later, Anfield was shorting its anger at Rush for failing to convert a cross from Birnbeck.

The break brought out a new Rush. Four minutes of the second half had been played when he crashed in a volley from 12 yards out. "It was worth the entrance money to see a goal like that — it was a fabulous strike," Peter Reid, the City manager, said.

Reid added that he thought City deserved three points, but it was difficult to agree. It was a competent performance, especially by the defence in which Curne was excellent, but Liverpool's midfield had the edge.

McMahon was fortunate

not to have been sent off for his second bookable offence. In the sixtieth minute, he brought down Rush and was booked. Two minutes later, he fled Redknapp but escaped with a brief word from the referee.

City, now tenth, one place ahead of Liverpool, have recovered well from three successive defeats. This was their second draw in three matches, with a victory over Liverpool United in between.

LIVERPOOL: M Hooper, M Marsh, R Jones, S Nicol, T Peacock, S Blomqvist, A. Hill, D. Barnes, M. Walters.

MANCHESTER CITY: A. Quinn, (Birnbeck), T. Pheen, S. McLean, K. Cuth, A. Hill, D. White, M. Stern, G. Hooper, P. Reid, N. Cunn, G. Barnes.

Referee: D Allison.

players threatened to strike. Some players had threatened to boycott the national side if he stayed in charge.

Fourteen players from Albania's Under-21 side stayed in Germany after a European championship match last week, an Albanian diplomat said yesterday. Simon Vogli, the first secretary at the Albanian embassy in Bonn, said five of the players were given permission to join their family there for new year's eve. However, a police spokesman said, they understood all 16 players in the squad failed to return to Tirana and he expected them all to request asylum.

Last year, ten members of an Under-16 Albanian team absconded while in Germany. A court in Bologna yesterday gave suspended two-year prison sentences to two men — for causing the death of an English football supporter, John Monaghan, during the 1990 World Cup finals. Monaghan, 26, from Coventry, died at the Belcaria hospital on June 26, 1990, two days after being knocked over by a car following a scuffle with the two youths.

Valery Lobanovsky, who managed the Soviet Union in three World Cup finals tournaments, has been dismissed as the coach of the United Arab Emirates team after his

return to first team football with Juventus after surgery on his knee may be delayed by complications after the operation. Platt, who had some cartilage removed last month, is nursing an inflammation which is likely to push his expected comeback date, the club announced yesterday.

Platt was expected to resume action on Sunday when Juventus play Parma at home in a league match. He may also miss the next league game, against Sampdoria.

Meanwhile, Marco van Basten, the European footballer of the year, will be out of action for three months instead of the expected two after an ankle operation, his surgeon, René Marti, said at St Moritz yesterday. Marti said the operation on the AC Milan player's left ankle had been more extensive than planned and the wound would take longer to heal.

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Barbarians concede second best in a refreshing and entertaining Christmas fixture

Leicester preserve traditional spirit

Leicester..... 41
Barbarians..... 23

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SOME traditions remain firmly in fashion. Leicester's annual Christmas encounter with the Barbarians is one and at Welford Road yesterday 16,400 spectators returned home replete with ten tries and a feast of joyous, attacking rugby.

That it lacked the stern intensity of the competitive league fixture is not in doubt, but such a fault is often the product of a commitment to attack, which, in this game, saw the ball in perpetual motion as Leicester, with their first victory over the guest's side for three years, won by four goals, two tries and a penalty goal to four tries and a penalty.

At one stage, it looked as though Leicester would romp away to a margin greater than their record success, 29-3 in 1910 — a year after the fixture started — but some generous refereeing by Jim Fleming helped the Barbarians to three tries in the last quarter, restoring some dignity at least.

Once upon a time, Leicester's December was devoted to fine-tuning for this match; yesterday, they had not seen their first team for a month, yet they came together as though there had been no divisional hiatus, moving the ball with splendid confidence.

However, an Achilles heel was apparent throughout the first half as the Barbarian lineout jumpers soared away to a 14-5 lead, much of their success coming from Cabannes at the tail, which served to emphasise the point made by Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, that Back is too small to challenge in that vital area.

Nevertheless, there was no doubt where the crowd's sympathies lay. Every time the fair-haired flanker had his hands on the ball, a ripple ran through the packed stands and, since Back gets to parts of the field others seldom reach, that was often. Indeed, this kind of game was a perfect showcase for his talents.

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Finders keepers: Garforth, the Leicester prop, claims the ball at the bottom of a pile of players against the Barbarians yesterday

moreover, their midfield picked holes in the Barbarian defence that allowed the two England wings full reign: the Underwood brothers were as likely to turn up on their wrong wings and it was on the right that Rory scored only his third try of the season.

Three of the Barbarian pack played at Welford Road ten days ago for the Midlands, but four of their colleagues then opposed them now. However, Lloyd let nobody get the better of him at the lineout and behind the scrums Hastings,

captain of the Barbarians for the day, set an example in defence and attack.

The day, though, was Leicester's. They led 17-3 at the interval, Liley taking only three minutes to get them off the mark when he chipped past Hastings to touch down. Wells, returning after a month away, was a popular scorer of the second try, but an even greater cheer was reserved for Garforth when he was forced over for the score which opened the second half.

It earned him an embrace

from Rowntree and Cockerill, his front row colleagues, which may not be everybody's idea of a reward, but the try which brought the house down was still to come: Johnson won a lineout 15 metres from his own line and Rory Underwood made the break which send Liley sprinting to halfway. Tony Underwood stayed with him and completed the 89-metre move by ousting Jean-Marc Lafond and any other Barbarian who could still raise a head of steam.

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dles first
home in
National

Goodshot Rich to land treble

GOODSHOT Rich can vindicate Charlie Brooks's decision to miss the Coral Welsh National by lifting the J H Rowe Challenge Trophy at Stratford today.

Following the eight-year-old's fluent victory at Lingfield earlier this month, Brooks was momentarily tempted to pursue the £35,000 Chepstow prize, even from two stone out of the handicap.

However, the Lambourn trainer sensibly decided that little fish are sweet and today's £4,000 race looks a far more logical objective.

Goodshot Rich began his campaign with a 12-length Newton Abbot success in October and then enjoyed a six-

MANDARIN

week break before his impressive eight-length Lingfield win over Mister Hartigan.

With a 7lb pull in the weights, Mister Hartigan can be expected to finish closer today, especially as he was making his seasonal reappearance at the Surrey track. However, such was the authority of Goodshot Rich's victory that he is expected to confirm the form.

Hebridean is an interesting recruit to the winter game and has not been set too daunting a task in the second division of the Auld Lang Syne Novices' Hurdle.

Good enough to finish a close third behind Endoli and Mashwillah in a listed race at Newbury in May when with Henry Candy, Hebridean would have to show only average hurdling aptitude to make a winning debut.

At Ayr, Mary Revelley and Peter Niven can capture the first three races with programmed To Win (12.40), Srivijaya (1.10) and Portonia (1.40).

The progressive Portonia makes particularly strong appeal in the Tentennet Lager Handicap Chase, the day's longest and most valuable race, and is mapped to complete her treble after two eight-length victories over an

extended three miles at Catterick.

Rive-Jumelle, following promising placed efforts at Huntingdon and Worcester, would have to show only average hurdling aptitude to make a winning debut.

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Two inspections

Two of today's three programmes are subject to pre-cautionary inspections because of forecast overnight frost — Ayr at 7am and Plumpton at 7.30am. Tomorrow's meeting at Carlisle is in doubt with an inspection planned for 12.30pm today.

STRATFORD

MANDARIN

12.50 LUMINAR DAYS
1.20 Hebridean
1.50 Casonne
2.20 Goodshot Rich
2.50 Simple Pleasure
3.20 Buckingham Gate
3.50 Ask The Governor

RICHARD EVANS: 1.20 HEBRIDEAN (nap).

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT PATCHES)

2.20 J H ROWE CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (63.272; 3m) (9 runners)

1. P6112P HARTWICH 19 (DLS) (A) Walter M Pies 12-10-0 D Richford (5) 61
2. 05-F434 STAY OR TRADE 20 (DLS) (P) Peter P Chastell 10-11-12 C Grant (5) 61
3. 14-F438 ROCKTOR 30 (DLS) (John W Melling) 10-11-12 N Heslop (5) 61
4. 14-F438 ROCKTOR 30 (DLS) (John W Melling) 10-11-12 N Heslop (5) 61
5. 225-12P KENTISH MISTER 18 (C,F,LS) (Mike T Pritchard) 7-10-11 C Lovell (5) 61
6. 4254-42 MISTER HARTIGAN 17 (DLS) (John E Edwards) 12-10-6 N Williams (5) 61
7. 071222 CLEVER SHEPHERD 32 (DLS) (M Lockley) 7-10-6 B Clifford (5) 61
8. 071222 CLEVER SHEPHERD 32 (DLS) (C Edwards) 7-10-6 B Clifford (5) 61
9. 221-184 LUMINAR DAYS 19 (DLS) (John Edwards) 12-10-6 B Clifford (5) 61
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Jane Glover: resigned
as artistic director of the
Buxton Festival almost
before she had started

ARTS

THEATRE page 25
Eileen Atkins: her
performance was the
year's highlight for
Benedict Nightingale



DANCE: The Bolshoi aims to bring classical ballet to the masses at the Albert Hall next month. **Debra Craine** reports

Suite-talking on the grand scale

On its first visit to the West in 1956, the Bolshoi Ballet came to Britain and the country was aghast. The tabloid newspapers were filled with minute-by-minute details of the coming and goings of the Bolshoi staff; even their dinner menus were published to satisfy the public's enormous appetite for news about Russia's greatest cultural export. The critics embraced "the very makers of ballet". Sir Anthony Eden sent a letter of gratitude to the Russian prime minister for sending "your magnificent company to London". As *The News of the World* put it, "the Bolshoi have truly conquered us".

On its last visit to Britain, in 1989, the novelty had clearly worn off. The company faced a hostile reception from some quarters. No longer a forbidden treasure, thanks to regular visits, its status vastly reduced by increasingly unfavourable comparisons with ballet in the West, the Bolshoi was savaged by many of the critics. The performances were vulgar, old-fashioned, blandly indifferent, stodgy, perfunctory. The myth of the Bolshoi Ballet was exposed.

Now the Moscow company is coming back to London, but its head is far from bowed. There is nothing modest about this return visit: a five-week season offering 37 performances of 12 famous ballets to a potential total audience of 137,000 in the cavernous Albert Hall. Just one step short of Wembley Stadium, this is baller's equivalent of the Earls Court *Tosca* or *Pavarotti* in the Park: grand and potentially lucrative — gesture to give ballet the populist push.

The £3 million season, which opens on January 9, is being presented by Derek Black, a rock promoter making his first foray into the world of classical ballet. His experience with mega-rock acts such as Elton John, Queen and the Pet Shop Boys should come in handy for the Bolshoi.

The Albert Hall is being transformed for the event: the idea is to recreate the atmosphere of the Bolshoi Theatre itself. As the proscenium arch, there will be a 70-foot-high, 125-foot-wide tableau which depicts the interior of the Moscow theatre and includes a painted backdrop showing the Tsar's box. The large apron stage will extend halfway into the arena, and the dancers will perform on the stage in front of the proscenium arch, offering an unusual dance-in-

the-round perspective to the 3,700 spectators.

The company is bringing 160 dancers; musical accompaniment will be provided by the 75-piece BBC Concert Orchestra; selected performances will be broadcast on Radio 2 on Saturday nights. It almost sounds like the "dance event of the century" that the promoters have bombastically proclaimed.

You have to hand it to artistic director Yuri Grigorovich. Undaunted by the scepticism of British critics, he has devised a novel approach for the season: taking his cue from the principle of the musical suite, he has created choreographic suites based on the length of works in the Bolshoi repertoire. There will be three full

'It is not necessary that the critics like it; it is necessary that the public should like it'

length ballets on offer every night, each conveyed in less than one hour, an approach designed to give audiences the maximum number of ballets in the minimum amount of time.

It is a typically grandiose approach from the man who has ruled the Bolshoi Ballet for almost 30 years. Some of them, like Grigorovich's own *The Golden Age* and *Spartacus*, are compressions of entire ballets; others, like *Swan Lake* and *Raymonda*, are simply a single act presented intact. In addition, there will be a weekly Sunday matinee of *Giselle*. Almost all the ballets are either choreographed by Grigorovich, or are his versions of the classics, and he is already steering himself for the critical onslaught.

"So many people want the Bolshoi to become the worst, or think it has already become so," he says. "I would like to disillusion them and take this legend out of their minds. I would like to show that the Bolshoi Theatre is still alive and there is a nice group of talented young dancers."

"Usually we take two or three ballets from our repertoire for a season; here we have a whole view

of what the Bolshoi Theatre gives to the public. The English public will see a great variety of stars, six to eight in one night. It is not necessary that the critics should like it; it is necessary that the public should like it."

And they probably will, for the enduring magic of the Bolshoi ensures that it will continue to draw the punters, even if it disappoints the purists. Advance box office takings have already exceeded expectations, with about £2.5 million taken up in ticket sales so far — seat prices range from £15 to £65.

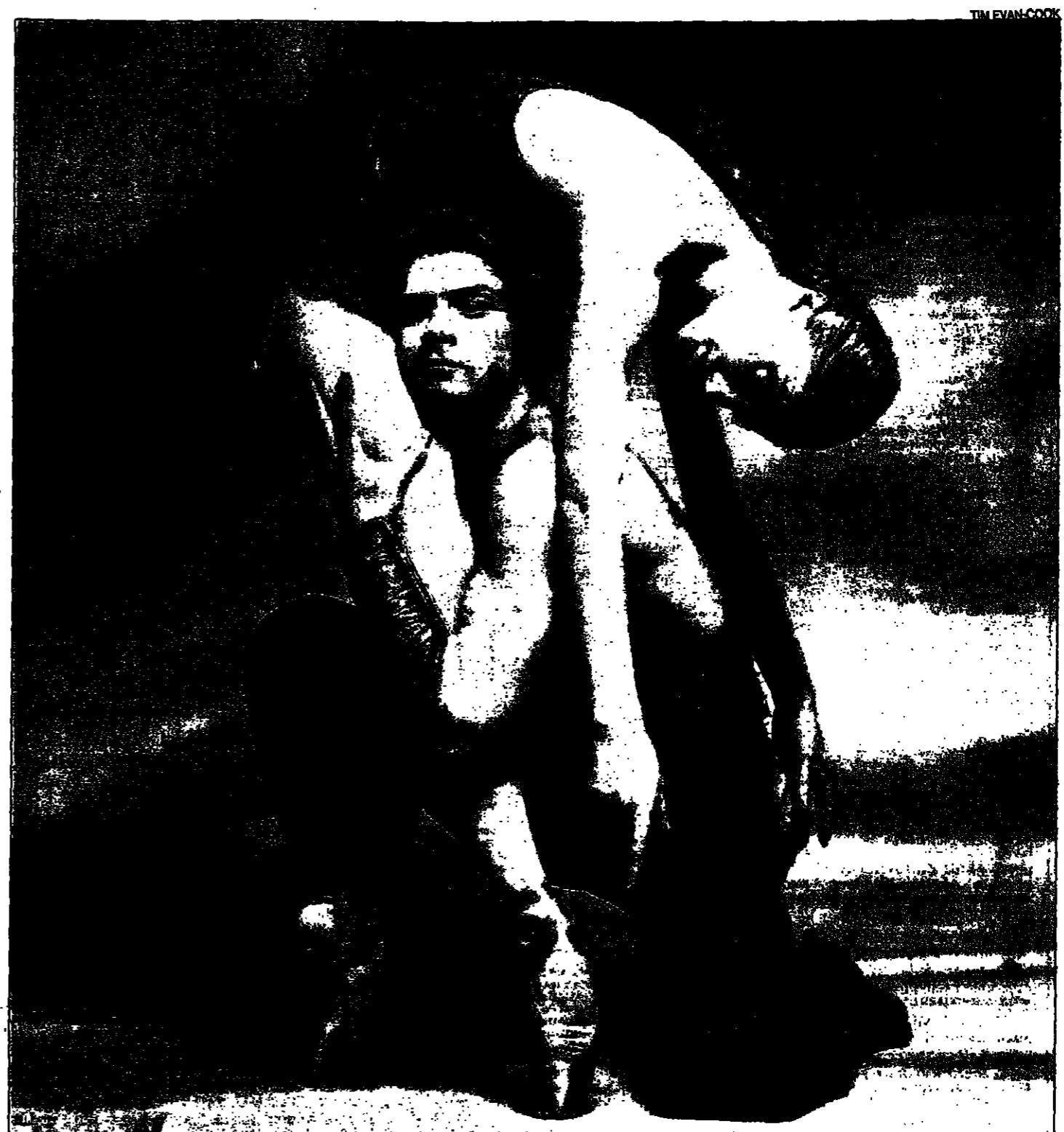
Speciale will be the order of the day, and spectacle is what the Bolshoi does best. But the event itself is also a speculation: an investment in the Bolshoi's future earnings potential. Foreign impresarios have been invited to the Kensington venue to judge for themselves if the audacious experiment succeeds; if it does it is likely to repeat elsewhere.

The Bolshoi desperately needs it to work. For not only is the company looking to restore its tarnished artistic reputation, it also needs to prove that it can support itself as a truly commercial organisation after more than a century of official patronage. The breakdown of communism in the old Soviet Union has brought hard times for the Bolshoi Theatre, as it has for the rest of the country. State subsidies no longer pay the bills and foreign currency earnings are vital if the theatre is to continue.

An annual government grant of 300 million roubles — about one million dollars — is "just a molehill, it should be 100 times more," says Vladimir Kokonin, director general of the Bolshoi Theatre, which supports both the ballet and the Bolshoi Opera. "Where do you see a theatre that costs only one million dollars?"

Hard currency earnings — about \$1.2 million a year — buy the musical instruments, the material values, the tutu fabrics and the high-tech lighting. The Bolshoi institution is kept afloat by lucrative foreign touring and by the publishing deals, the video and recording contracts, that has struck in the West, particularly Britain.

"It was a very tough year under the Soviet 'government,'" Kokonin explains. "They spent a lot of money on the Bolshoi; they helped the Bolshoi Theatre acquire its prestigious image. The positive



Doing what they do best: Bolshoi Ballet dancers Yuri Klevtsov and Inna Palshina in the Yuri Grigorovich spectacle, *Spartacus*

side was we never felt a lack of anything; the negative side, well we paid that from an artistic point of view. It cost us a lot. Now, for the first time in its history, the Bolshoi Theatre is independent of money."

The new freedom costs in artistic as well as financial terms: the loss of some of the country's top singers and dancers to the West. "Before with the tough central system the artist was like a serf; now he's a free man. And if an artist has no

contract he may do whatever he likes and they do. Artists get other offers, what are they supposed to do? The Russian star working abroad gets 100 times more than here."

Kokonin and Grigorovich are still smarting from the resignation of Irak Mukhammedov, the Bolshoi Ballet's top male star who decamped in favour of Covent Garden two years ago. "Irak violated all the rules," says Kokonin. "He was supposed to go on tour with us

in the United States. All the advertising, all over the world, featured him, tickets were sold. Two weeks before we left he said he changed his mind and said he wanted to go to Covent Garden. I couldn't apply to the courts, there was no legal thing that would help me. I had no compensation, the American impresario suffered, the whole troupe suffered."

With Mukhammedov firmly ensconced at Covent Garden, Grigorovich is now relying on less familiar names like Gediminas Taranda, Yuri Klevtsov and Nadezhda Gracheva to dazzle the Albert Hall audiences. The names may have changed, but the larger-than-life ballets remain the same. And, despite their limited range, and the sloppy technique and tawdry theatrics that occasionally mar them, the famous Bolshoi style — big, brave and brazen — still continues to do the myth.

• The Bolshoi Ballet is at the Albert Hall (071-589 8212) from January 9

GALLERIES: Madrid is ending its year as European Capital of Culture with a flurry of fine art shows

History paintings are not always bunk

John Russell Taylor recommends a clutch of exhibitions which add extra lustre to the considerable attractions of the Spanish capital



Spanish history: *Los Comuneros Padilla, Bravo y Maldonado en el patíbulo*, by Antonio Gisbert

All national art collections have the same problem, in the shape of pictures once expensively acquired and proudly shown but now unfashionable, ridiculed and despised. Since these are usually 19th-century academic works, they are frequently enormous and in poor condition. But now that tastes have shifted again, they can no longer be consigned to decent obscurity. What to do? A major exhibition of 19th Century History Painting in Spain, organised as part of Madrid's year as Cultural Capital of Europe, offers an impressive though no doubt expensive solution.

In the British national collection such works mostly languish in the Action stores of the Tate Gallery. A few years ago, when the then director of the Tate was bewailing the unshowability of many earlier Chantrey Bequest pictures, I suggested he should put on a show of everything the bequest bought between, say, 1890 and 1914, and leave it up to the public to judge how to treat a painting currently worth at most £2,000 which would cost more than that to restore. He did not fancy the notion: all the public would register, he said, was that the Tate was a bad custodian of its treasures.

In France, similar pictures, once proudly exhibited at the Luxembourg, are now mostly moulder in provincial museums. The same until this year, in Spain, where the Prado has found this the most tactful way to hide its major embarrassments. But no more. For this show, staged in the spacious galleries of the old Museo Español de Arte Contemporáneo (now liberated by the removal of the collection to the newly completed Centro d'Arte Reina Sofía, another Cultural Year enterprise), 52 very large paintings have been dredged up, mostly from deposit in provincial museums, cleaned and restored. After the show is over, it is intended

that most of them will be retained in Madrid and kept on show, perhaps in the Buen Retiro annex of the Prado.

Naturally, once the scope and ambition of the enterprise has been saluted, the question arises — were these enormous canvases worth the time and trouble, not to mention the money? Such a panorama of 19th-century Spanish academic art has seldom, if ever, been seen in living memory, all in one place. Clearly, fluctuations of taste and fashion have a lot to do with that. It may well be that the best painting in the show is the latest of all,

Barcelon 1902, by Ramon Casas, since here Casas brings many of the skills he had learnt with the Impressionists to bear on the problem of the contemporary record: the picture works more by what it does not say than by what it does, the wide open space, brutally emptied of protesters, speaking more dramatically than a multiplicity of detail could.

But nowadays we seem to be reacquiring some traditional skills in the reading of images: the picture which tells a story still has its place, as well as its historical significance. Some of these pictures

have been as famous in Spain as *And When Did You Last See Your Father?* was in England, and as influential in Spanish children's ideas of their history.

The figure of the mad queen Juana of Castile naturally attracts painters' attention, with all the potential of her insanity for melodrama and sentimental sympathy. Of its kind, Francisco Pradilla's *Doña Juana la Loca* (1877) could hardly be better done. The First Disembarkation of Columbus in America, by the splendidly named Díaz, Teófilo de la Puebla Tolin, is at least timely. At the very

least, this period of Spanish art turns out to be far from the wasteland it has long been assumed to be.

The show of history paintings is only one of the many put on to mark the Cultural Year. The Museo Municipal has a comprehensive show, full of unexpected delights, devoted to Madrid Pinilla, the images of the capital produced by dozens of painters, some very famous, some almost unknown, from the beginning of the 17th to the middle of the 20th century.

• La Pintura de Historia del Siglo XIX en España is at the Antiguo Museo Español de Arte Contemporáneo (Telephone: 5497150) and Madrid Pinilla is at the Museo Municipal (5216656). Both continue until the end of January.

• Casper David Friedrich is at the Prado (4202836) until January 6.

Antwerp's turn, page 25

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THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale recalls his highlight of 1992. Jeremy Kingston looks in vain for seasonal cheer

Ambushed by a moment of magic

When people talk of "the magic of the theatre", I tend to reach for my garlic. Anything to defend myself against the glossy witchcraft the fake enchantment implied by the phrase. "Theatrical magic" means goopy reworkings of the Cinderella story, bland revivals of Gilbert and Sullivan, and the kind of bright, winsome production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that makes some of us want not merely to see Robert Lepage's mudbath version of the play but to jump onstage and take ourselves in the decor. Or does it, must it? Could there be a less sentimental definition of the cliché?

Yes, I think there could. I myself experience what I call theatrical magic pretty seldom, on average once every three or four years; and I did so again in 1992. It was not at Lepage's *Dream*, though the production proved to be as imaginative as it was inauthentic. Nor was it at Stephen Daldry's revival of Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, or at Terry Hands's version of *Tamboerine the Great*, or even during the opening love-scene in *Carousel*, all of which I saw and much admired this year. No, it was at Richard Eyre's somewhat uneven restaging of one of Tennessee Williams's middling-to-lessor plays, *The Night of the Iguana*.

There is a point late in the piece when one of the subsidiary characters, a New England spinster, talks to a defrocked priest about her experience of love. This turns out primarily to consist of a lonely encounter with a dowdy businessman in a boat of Singapore. He fondled her underwear while she looked the other way. Could anything be sadder, pettier or more sordid? But as Eileen Atkins told Alfred Molina the tale in her still, grave way, she might have been incanting a spell across the footlights. On that first night critics, cognoscenti and assorted other cynics sat entranced by her offbeat magic, mesmerised by something that struck me for one as uncommonly profound.

The symptoms we felt that night are hard to describe, but unmistakable. For me, they consisted of a prickling at the back of the neck and a sense of being lifted out of myself. I had something of the same experience when Gielgud's Prospero renounced his powers, when Scofield's Vanya contemplated the barren years ahead, when Ralph Richardson's John Gabriel Borkman spoke of his love for the Norwegian forests in that spectral voice of his, and, in a New York *Death of a Salesman*, when Dustin Hoffman's Willy Loman, on his face the kind of disbelieving tenderness you sometimes see in fathers when they pick up their newborn children for the first time.

As it happened, those were all



Sharing a spellbinding revelation: Alfred Molina listens as Eileen Atkins recalls her experience of love, in Richard Eyre's production of *The Night of the Iguana*

major productions, major events but the same strange magic can occur at lesser ones. It was there when Barbara Jefford played Phèdre in a half-derelict theatre in Salford 25 years ago; and it did not matter that her desolate cries were punctuated by a urinal that kept noisily flushing every two or three minutes. It was certainly there when Anthony Hopkins appeared in Schindler's *Lonely Road* in 1985, a performance unjustly overshadowed by the newspaper magnate he played the same year in *Hare and Brenton's* high-profile *Pravda*.

Hopkins was one of Schindler's archetypal roles, a man who 20 years before had made a woman pregnant on the eve of her marriage to someone else, and was belatedly discovering paternal feelings in himself. He stood there facing the audience, something surely not just glycine running down his cheeks, a look on his face that still defies my poor imagination to describe. It was as if he was

peering into his own coffin, exhuming his own corpse, trying to resuscitate his own decomposing heart and, of course, failing quite to do so.

Perhaps that suggests what these events have in common. They tend not to be ones of all-electric passion: Olivier's Othello ululating in agony, or Shylock wailing from the wings after his exit from the Doge's courtroom. They do not even seem to be the traditionally wrenching ones: Hordern's Lear trudging in with Cordelia dead in his arms. They take aim at something beyond the spine, the tear-ducts, or even the heart. They leave us with the impression we have been looking into somebody's very soul.

It would be nice to believe that is how the ancient Athenians felt when Aschylus's Prometheus explained why he had presented mankind with the gift of fire, or Sophocles's Oedipus was assumed

into heaven at Colonus. The link between theatre and religion was still alive then. Mysteries were being publicly celebrated. Dionysus's priests were doubtless in the front row looking pious and important. Yet who knows? Amaranthine actors, an uncomfortably crowded hillside, swarms of midges and no flyspray to combat them: somehow I suspect a modern secular theatre is more likely to promote Grecian ecstasy.

And that sort of ecstasy is only to be found in the live theatre. Some of the best performances I saw in 1992 were on television, culminating in Alec Guinness's Heinrich Mann in Christopher Hampton's *Tales from Hollywood*. I shan't easily forget the look on his face when his drunken wife yet again disgraced herself in public, or towards the play's end, he drove her in her death-throes to one uncaring hospital after another. Yet, though much can be electronically conveyed these days, not serious magic.

A spoopy contact between actor and audience — sometimes includ-

ing words but always beyond them — is of the very essence. What I felt about Eileen Atkins's Hannah I felt alone. Though their reviews indicated otherwise, there may have been one or two of my fellow critics who were thinking about their suppers while she was talking of her oddball love, yet the communal feel was unmissable. It was as if we were being collectively transported into some fourth dimension.

But if the live theatre makes such moments possible, it also explains why they are elusive. I felt that magic when I saw *Les Misérables*, as did those around me, some of whose faces suggested they were watching the arrival of the spaceship in *Close Encounters*. But it had become a more ordinary excitement when I saw the show with another Valjean reaching into himself to forgive another Javert. There may even have been evenings when Atkins, because she or the audience or both were in a down mood, failed to produce her creative sorcery. Conversely, I have

it on good authority that there were times in 1992 when Robert Stephens's sad, self-doubting Falstaff achieved a lift-off he did not quite manage on opening night. After all, every performance is different, and first ones are seldom the best.

Perhaps this evanescent something can only be described metaphorically. If so, a good analogy is to be found in Brian Friel's *Faith Healer*, which was actually revived at the Royal Court early in 1992.

The shaman of the title tours the country, rarely accomplishing much, let alone the "exultation, the consummation" he craves. And then one rainy night in an obscure Welsh village ten people are healed: "there was no shouting or cheering or dancing with joy. Hardly a word was spoken. It was like not only had he taken away whatever was wrong with them, he had given them some great content in themselves as well. As Friel clearly knows, and wants us to know, theatrical magic is like that too.

JEREMY KINGSTON



The way we were daring: bathers on a Coney Island beach when topless applied only to sports cars

TELEVISION REVIEW: a blast from the past, mingled with the scent of suntan oil

Considering that, nowadays, even a sado-masochist orgy involving the use of equipment usually only seen in torture chambers (or on the sets of avant-garde operas) passes for run-of-the-mill entertainment, it seems remarkable that *The New York Times* felt sufficiently shocked by the goings-on at Brooklyn's Coney Island amusement empire early this century to dub it "Sodom-by-the-Sea".

Watching the archive stills and newsreel footage stylishly woven into last night's documentary *Coney Island* (Channel 4), New York's famous playground looked like a genteel reminder of a more innocent age, when people got kicks from Ferris wheels rather than free-basing. Maxim Gorky, not writing in *The New York Times*, called it "fabulous beyond concealing, ineffably beautiful".

Of course there were pre-political-correctness horrors, such as

"Midget City", home to 500

Life's a beach

dwarves, and the public electrocution of Topsy, one of Coney Island's performing elephants. Topsy had to be put down anyway, so why not make a show of it? The idea of electrocuting the six-ton beast was dreamt up after the city authorities had refused to allow the far more spectacular prospect of hanging it.

But there were also rides and amusements that popped the eyes of New York's huddled masses, who were still poor enough and unwieldy enough to gawk when they saw the thousands of lightbulbs that illuminated Coney Island's towers, visible for miles out to sea. By the end of the 19th century there were more than three million New Yorkers, half of them living in packed-like-sardines slums. On a warm summer Sunday, you could find a quarter of a million of them at the electric Eden

prostitutes which such places attract that led *The New York Times* to see in Coney Island "scenes that shock and disgust". Few others minded. Except maybe Topsy.

For decades, Coney Island was a summer safety valve, offering New Yorkers an escape and a chance to see the wonders of a world that was still a long way from the days when technologically-jaded westerners would begin keeping a television in every room, and own at least one computer that could communicate with NASA.

But by the late 1940s, there was less need for this miniature World Fair of new gadgets and impossibly tall towers. So Coney Island was born, but it had done a sizzling job of playing midwife to the larger, richer, modern world. Now it's not just a spit of land at the foot of Brooklyn that *The New York Times* found shocking, but the whole of New York.

JOE JOSEPH

All eyes on Antwerp, back on top again

Antwerp, with its proud history as a port and trade centre, will be the 1993 Cultural Capital of Europe, writes Allen Robertson

Ever since the plan was inaugurated with Antwerp in 1985, a string of cities from across the European Community has played symbolic host to the arts each year. But unlike the internationalism of Glasgow in 1990, or Madrid in 1992, Antwerp is concentrating on its own heritage and future as the 1993 Cultural Capital of Europe. The planners intend that 1993 will have a lasting impact which will help shape the Belgian artistic climate well into the 21st century.

As might be expected from the home of Rubens, Antwerp will stage several major art exhibitions. The most significant is the show, at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, marking the 400th anniversary of the birth of Antwerp painter Jacob Jordaeus.

In the performing arts, Antwerp 93 is to present a Festival of Contemporary Opera, with three new operas to which Flemish artists have made a significant contribution; a theatre festival will feature productions that deal with the

theme of "The Questioner": there will be visits by the Franklin Ballet and Trisha Brown Dance Company from America. The city of diamonds will play host to a tall British contingent: the Philharmonia, conducted by Pierre Boulez, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle, and Roger Norrington with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

The elegant Bourla, the city's intimate 800-seat Théâtre Royal, is being restored to mark the occasion. Built in 1827, it had to be closed down due to safety hazards in 1980. Now it is being given an extensive facelift. Hundreds of craftsmen, using traditional techniques, are taking it back to its original splendour. They are cleaning more than a century's worth of grime off the ceiling frescoes, adding

bits of gold leaf to the ornate proscenium arch and replacing pieces of wood into the intricate marquetry floors. Highlights of the Bourla's 1993 schedule include several world premieres.

It may surprise some, but Antwerp has played host to three world's fairs — in 1885, 1894 and again in 1930, when the city built what became the first skyscraper in Europe. Antwerp may not be top of the tourist list, but it was once second only to Paris in size and importance.

Today it is still a major port, with an energetic bustle dating back centuries to the time when it was a major European crossroads. In recognition of this there will be a tall ships regatta in August. Still with the maritime theme, one of the city's leading architects, Bob van Reeth, has converted a 77-

foot barge into a theatre that has been dubbed the Ark. Moored in the Scheldt River, it will also function as a floating home over the summer months for 15 youth companies from around the world, notably from former Belgian colonies, but also from St Petersburg, Prague, Istanbul and North America.

There will be music festivals from the city's major immigrant communities: Moroccan, Hebrew, Turkish, Spanish and Indian. There will also be plenty of jazz and pop, plus more than 100 concerts, that will range from Monteverdi to Stravinsky, in churches and theatres.

One of the themes of 1993 is Antwerp as an "open city". Much of the old city is now restricted to pedestrians and this will give an added zest to all of the music and street theatre that is planned. There will also be an open-air museum where a dozen international artists will create site-specific structures.

Antwerp 93 officially opens on March 26

Can art
save the
world?

Antwerp 93 Cultural Capital of Europe

© 1992 Antwerp 93 Cultural Capital of Europe



As is, as was: posters for 1993, when Antwerp becomes Cultural Capital of Europe (left), and the 1894 world's fair

LAW

Two lawyers play fortune-teller for the profession in 1993 and can see, through the clouds in the crystal ball, some peculiar events

● **January:** Devon and Cornwall solicitors announce they are pulling out permanently from legal aid work in protest against fixed fees. A Treasury spokesman urges other solicitors to follow suit.

● **February:** The debate over wigs continues: a report commissioned by radical barristers suggests that in very hot weather judges in the divisional court may remove their wigs. One senior judge condemns this as "the most pernicious suggestion ever made and a direct attack upon liberty, democracy and the entire legal system". Other judges use stronger language.

● **March:** The home secretary orders an enquiry after press disclosures that 99 per cent of defendants have been rightly convicted of the crimes they committed. The Lord Chancellor proposes a 0.0002 per cent rise in legal aid rates.

● **April:** The Lord Chancellor is summoned to Downing Street to explain to the prime minister the lack of progress with the citizen's charter for the courts. The Lord Chancellor explains that agreement has been reached over the requirement that there be a drinks vending machine in every tier 1 crown court save for those courts where it is deemed to be inappropriate. The cabinet secretary advises the prime minister that by legal standards this is indeed a radical and far-reaching proposal.

● **May:** The government is embarrassed by the leak that the Top People's Pay Review Body, acting on legal advice, is having to recommend that judges be given pay rises of 256 per cent to put them in the same position as those in comparable occupations. An enquiry is set up into the leak of its list of comparable occupations to the press. The list shows that the Lord Chief Justice's pay is to be linked to that of Paul Gascoigne. The Law Society is concerned to find the comparable job for a solicitor is a Mexican fruit picker.

● **June:** Devon and Cornwall solicitors threaten to take hostages and even to shoot them. The government says it will never give in to threats. The Law Society arranges a crisis conference on legal aid funding, to be held in Rio de Janeiro.

● **July:** Defaulting solicitors cause such inroads into the Solicitors' Compensation Fund that the Law Society is forced to give emergency advice to clients: "Under no circumstances should you let a solicitor have any of your money." The payments department of the Legal Aid Board confirms that this has always been their policy.

The Abbey National takes the initiative in the war against mortgage fraud and assures the power to arrest solicitors and detain them without trial. The police ask the government for similar powers.

● **August:** Stung by criticism that judges are selected from an unrepresentative clique, the Lord Chancellor announces categories of applicants who will get special treatment: women with children, ethnic minorities, the disabled and gays. After representations by the Law Society, solicitors are added.

● **September:** It proves impossible for the Serious Fraud Office to arrest anyone without the press first

Don't worry, it gets worse



being tipped off. Advertisers start taking space on the walls of prominent fraudsters' houses. The attorney-general canvasses opinion as to whether arrests can be commercially sponsored.

● **October:** The prison privatisation programme carries on and the government announces plans to sell off prison cells. Discounts are to be offered to prisoners with lengthy sentences. Ford Open Prison is offered for sale and attracts immense interest from merchant banks for use as a staff training centre. The prison water which is believed to have cured Ernest Saunders from his illness is bottled and sold for its miraculous healing qualities.

● **November:** Solicitors change their tack over legal aid and campaign for it to be administered by the Treasury. New "Lamont criteria" replace the old eligibility criteria. Under their proposals

people will be eligible for legal aid on incomes up to £63,000.

● **December:** The commercial court again threatens to grind to a halt through lack of judges. The Lord Chancellor proposes a "demanded consumer solution". The producers of *Gladiators* will be put in charge of the court, which will be televised as *Trial by Ordeal*. Judges will be replaced by an electronic scoreboard as lawyers and litigants compete in a series of games. A studio audience will judge "Guess Who's Living" while barristers stand on platforms and prod each other with giant briefs stuffed with money. There will even be a game for barristers' clerks — "Law Return" — where clerks compete to see who can be the latest to return a brief. Traditionalists withdraw objections once the Lord Chancellor makes it clear that everyone will wear wigs.

PATRICK STEVENS

● **January:** The year begins with condemnation throughout the profession of the Lord Chancellor. The Bar offers to peg legal aid fees at the June 1989 levels. "I had planned that myself," Lord Mackay of Clashfern says. The home secretary wants to clear police cells of prisoners for at least one day during the year.

● **February:** Under the new multi-partnership rules solicitors are allowed to link with travel agents. "Once we were *hommes d'affaires*, now we are *hommes de Cook's*," says a Law Society spokesperson proudly. Solicitors are advised to apply for membership of ABTA as well as FIMBRA. Legal aid rates are pegged at 1985 levels.

● **March:** Complaints come from dissatisfied travellers that their lawyer, Solicitor Travel Agency, has booked them into the Hotel de Ville as opposed to the Hotel du Lac. The Solicitors' Complaints

Bar places a restriction on the solicitor's practising certificate. Nothing is said about his work as a travel agent.

● **April:** The Court of Appeal hears 18 appeals from decisions by deputy High Court judges — now sitting on all High Court cases because of the shortage of full-time judges — and upholds all decisions.

● **May:** No progress has been made on the appointment of the minorities, women and solicitors to the bench. "I am not sure that statistics are meaningful. It is not that individuals do not have ability," the Lord Chancellor says. "It is they do not have the opportunity."

● **June:** Legal aid fees are pegged at 1987 levels. The president of the Law Society and the chairman of the Bar Council in a rare joint statement predict that the profession will be worse in 1994 than in the present year but not as badly off as in 1995. Lord Mackay returns as Lord Chancellor.

● **July:** The Royal Commission's report recommends the use of lie detectors, citing one defendant: "I was going to ask for one." Tests showed that the second sheet, which added, "but please God the old boy won't let me have it", had been inserted by the police officer.

● **August:** Prisoners re-admitted to police cells on August 1. "It is only a temporary measure caused by rioting/industrial action by warders/renovation/over-sentencing," the Home Office says.

● **September:** Under mounting pressure to peg legal aid rates at 1979 rates, the Lord Chancellor resigns, to glowing tributes. "We shall not see his like again," a Law Society spokesperson says. This eulogy, it is found, appeared on the grave of the Grand National winner, Troytown, killed in a drag race at Auteuil.

● **October:** The number of paying delegates does not top the hoped-for 100 mark at the Law Society's conference, which next year will be held in London, possibly with the Bar. There are objections: "Why change a winning formula?" asks a spokesperson. The reporter cannot recall from which side of the professional fence the remark came.

● **November:** Field trials undertaken in cases where the defendant appears not in court but on closed circuit television from prison are enormously successful. "I find if he is obstructive or argumentative, I jangle the coins in my pocket. This causes interference with the reception and it cuts him off in his prime," says a member of the Crown Prosecution Service. "It also saves him adding perjury to his other crimes."

● **December:** Legal aid fees are pegged at 1987 levels. The president of the Law Society and the chairman of the Bar Council in a rare joint statement predict that the profession will be worse in 1994 than in the present year but not as badly off as in 1995. Lord Mackay returns as Lord Chancellor.

JAMES MORTON

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

UK/INTERNATIONAL

SENIOR CONSTRUCTION

To Partnership

Midlands

Well-known Midlands firm with offices throughout the country seeks good construction lawyer with around 10 years' ppe and solid construction experience. Strong personality and ability to handle top quality workload essential together with good academic background. Ref T6677

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Medium-sized City practice going from strength to strength seeks specialist project finance lawyer, ideally to have own client connections and strong practice development skills. Unique opportunity to tap firm's latent project finance client potential. Senior position possibly immediate partnership. At least 4 years' relevant experience essential. Ref T2749

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LONDON & HONG KONG

PROJECT FINANCE

To £100,000

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City firm with international offices

seeks senior project finance specialist to strengthen existing team

currently tendering for work in Europe, Asia and South America. Private practice or industry experience considered.

Excellent package and potentially an immediate partnership.

HONG KONG

Expatiate

Top City firm with busy, long established Hong Kong office requires Cantonese speakers for high quality litigation.

Ideally 1-3 years qualified. Separate requirement

for an academically strong 3-4 year qualified corporate lawyer.

c. £36,000

Holborn practice seeks lawyer with 1-3 years' EEC/competition

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broad range of transactional work and EEC policy

considerations, as well as assisting with regular newsletters.

Significant responsibility and competitive City package.

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Medium-sized City firm which has remained profitable and

stable throughout the recession seeks employment specialists

for mix of contentious and non-contentious work. Must

possess a high level of enthusiasm and initiative. Will be

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medium term prospects.

ZMB is open on 29th, 30th and 31st December. For further information on the vacancies listed above, or confidential expert career advice, please contact Jonathan Macrae or Lisa Hicks (both lawyers) on 071-377 0510 (071-226 1558 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174.

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Medium/Large

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seeks senior ship finance specialist with connections to help develop the area. Also actively seeking senior dry

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To £35,000

Unusual opportunity for UK or foreign qualified lawyer to

join small London office of well respected US firm handling a

mix of tax and ECC work.

c. £35,000

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lawyer, ideally 1-3 years qualified, with good copyright

training. Some previous exposure to broadcasting would be

a major advantage. Vacant caseload, including commercial

contracts and licensing. Potential for travel.

To £75,000

50 year old City firm with strong corporate base and small

banking unit seeks solicitor with, ideally, 6-10 years' ppe

gained at top law practice handling mainstream banking

work. Personal connections an advantage, not a pre-requisite.

ZARAK

MACRAE

BRENNER

ZMB

1. Fred Bushell, the former head of the Lotus car company, was convicted of a "bare-faced outrageous and massive fraud" (Lord Justice Murray at Belfast Crown Court) against the DeLorean Sports Car Company. How much was his fine?

a. £750,000
b. £1.25 million
c. £2.25 million

2. Kevin and Ian Maxwell faced charges of theft, fraud and conspiracy to defraud. They were both charged and released on bail. How much?
3. A former director of Bishopton Investment Management which managed part of the Maxwell pension fund was also accused of six charges of theft and conspiracy to defraud. Who was he?

July

In a survey, which "itchy, antique, ridiculous and unhygienic" items did court defendants tell the legal profession they should keep?

August

1. The Channel 4 documentary *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife* provoked a colourful libel trial:

Employer of subcontract labour remains liable

Morris v Breavengen Ltd (trading as Amazac Construction Co)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Belkam and Sir John Megaw [Judgment December 11]

An employer who, under a labour only subcontract, sent his employee to work on site under the direction and control of the main contractor, remained liable to his employee if the system of work was unsafe.

If he had in the past allowed his employee to operate plant for which he had had no proper instruction he would be liable for injury to his employee caused by such lack of instruction when the employee was using the main contractor's plant.

In such circumstances the employer was liable under regulation 3 of the Construction (General Provisions) Regulations (SI 1961 No 1580) if the plant was used in breach of those regulations.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Breavengen Ltd, from the judgment of M^J Justice Sheen in March 1992 that they and not the contractors, Sleemans Construction Ltd, were liable in damages for injuries sustained to the plaintiff, Mr Richard Morris.

Mr Oliver Tociati for the defendants; Miss Elizabeth Andrew for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE BELKAM said that the plaintiff, a building site worker, was employed by the defendants, who in 1981 by subcontract with the main contractors, Sleemans had undertaken to provide labour for work at Dartmoor prison farm.

During the previous year the

plaintiff had been permitted by the defendants in the course of other work to drive a dumper truck although he had been given no proper instruction in its use.

By the terms of the subcontract the defendants were liable to observe and perform all safety obligations imposed by statute or common law and to maintain employer's liability insurance to respect of their employees.

The judge held that while working on the site, the main contractors had the right to control what the plaintiff did and how he did it.

In the course of his work, the plaintiff volunteered to drive Sleemans' dumper truck to take spoil from the farm to a tipping site. While doing so the truck went over the edge of the site and the plaintiff suffered serious injury.

The judge found that the accident was caused by an unsafe system of work and by the plaintiff's lack of instruction in the use of the truck, which at the time was being used in breach of regulations 32 and 37 of the 1961 Regulations. He held the defendants liable for breach of their duty of common law and under the regulations of workmen who were working or using the dumper truck.

The judge held that the defendants were taking part in the building operations through their employee and were bound to comply with the regulations. That decision was correct.

As subcontractors the defendants were carrying out works to which the regulations applied and through their employee the defendants were using the dumper truck to execute the works. They were liable to the plaintiff for breach of statutory duty.

Lord Justice Nourse and Sir John Megaw gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Nash & Co, Wimbledon; Rowley Ashworth, Exeter.

Police complaints papers cannot be used in civil case

Regina v Chief Constable of the West Midlands, Ex parte Wiley

Regina v Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, Ex parte Sunderland

Regina v Police Complaints Authority, Ex parte Wiley

Regina v Police Complaints Authority, Ex parte Johnson

Before M^J Justice Popplewell [Judgment December 16]

Documents which were created and came into existence for the purpose of a police complaints investigation were not to be used for any purpose in civil proceedings except to enable a legal adviser to advise on discovery.

Any enquiry carried out by the Police Complaints Authority would be seriously handicapped by the fact that a complainant would be unwilling to make a statement which could be used to his disadvantage in civil proceedings.

When determining whether to grant the police's request for a dispensation from the investigation of a complaint, the Police Complaints Authority was not obliged to consider the reasonableness of the refusal or failure by a complainant to make a statement.

M^J Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division when

allowing applications of Kelvin Raymond Wiley and Tony Sunderland for judicial review of the decisions of the Chief Constables of the West Midlands and Nottinghamshire respectively, refusing to give undertakings that documents created in relation to police complaints investigations in civil proceedings brought by the complainants and defendants, Mr Wiley and Anne Johnson's applications for judicial review of the decisions of the Police Complaints Authority which dispensed with the requirements to investigate the public interest would not be served.

The purpose of the investigation would be emasculated and frustrated if a complainant or witness was reluctant to make a statement because of apprehension that it would be used in other proceedings.

When considering the request for a dispensation it was open for the Police Complaints Authority to conclude that it was not reasonably practicable for them to complete their investigations without a statement from the complainant.

Solicitors: White & Billingham, Wolverhampton; Nelson Johnson & Hastings, Nottingham; Edwards, Frait, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor, Mr J. M. Kilby, Birmingham; Mr C. P. McKay, Nottingham.

When defendant chooses to remain silent at trial

Regina v Hillier

Regina v Farrar

Before accepting advice not to give evidence it should be clearly understood that a judge in the absence of evidence from the defendant, could properly be expected to go in presenting a defence.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Watkins, M^J Justice Tudor Evans and M^J Justice Tucker) so

ruled on December 10 when dismissing the appeals of Brian Hillier and Vivian Frederick Farrar against their convictions on July 30, 1992 at Winchester Crown Court (Judge Staniforth-Hill, C.J. and a jury) of conspiracy to cheat the Revenue and, in Farrar's case, also of false accounting.

M^J JUSTICE WATKINS said that in their Lordships' experience it was too often argued in the

trial that the defendant had not presented the defence properly in his summing up where the defendant had not given evidence.

It was not part of a judge's duty to build up the defence of someone who had chosen not to give the benefit of seeing him in the witness box, although he should remind them in summary form of what the defendant had said about the matter at some time prior to the trial.

Overstayer cannot be settled

Regina v Croydon London Borough Council, Ex parte Eason

An illegal overstayer in another jurisdiction, who had made himself intentionally homeless in the United Kingdom, could not be said to be occupying settled accommodation where, if detected, he was liable to deportation.

Mr Andrew Collins, QC, sitting

as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held on November 13 when refusing the application of Mr and Mrs Eason for judicial review of the decision of Croydon London Borough Council that they remained intentionally homeless as a result of their voluntary departure from council accommodation in Lambeth in 1986.

The word "settled" was used not as a term of art but as a description of a state of affairs.

Fear of AIDS amounts to special reason

Director of Public Prosecutions v Kimerley

Before Lord Justice Rose and M^J Justice Pill [Judgment December 10]

A genuine fear of contracting AIDS as a result of blowing into a police breath test device was capable of amounting in special reasons for not disqualifying a driver who had refused to provide a specimen of breath for analysis.

A driver convicted of failing to provide a specimen of breath for analysis could successfully argue that there were special reasons for not disqualifying him, even though he had provided a specimen of breath for analysis.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing a prosecution appeal by way of case stated against the decision of the City of London Justices on October 22, 1991 that special reasons existed for not disqualifying Simon Norman Kimerley who had been convicted of failing, without reasonable excuse, to provide a specimen of breath for analysis contrary to section 64(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning for the prosecution; Mr Paul Darlow for the defendant.

M^J JUSTICE PILL said that the defendant, having been required to provide two specimens of breath for analysis, refused to do so and gave no reason for his refusal.

Before the justices, the defendant had argued that he should not be convicted because he had a reasonable excuse for not providing specimens as he feared contracting the Human Immunodeficiency Virus which was believed to lead to AIDS.

The justices convicted the defendant but were of the opinion that, in the circumstances, the reason given for not providing the specimens constituted a special reason for not disqualifying the defendant.

The prosecution submitted on appeal that having convicted the defendant the justices were wrong to find that there were special reasons for not disqualifying. The justices had confused the circumstances which were connected with the offence with the circumstances connected with the offender.

The prosecution further argued

that the defendant was under a duty to draw the police officer's attention to any circumstances which were special to him which presented him providing a specimen and that if he did not do so a plea of special reasons could not succeed.

In his Lordship's judgment the justices were, on the evidence, entitled to find that there were special reasons for not disqualifying the defendant. The defendant's failure to give an explanation did not exclude as a matter of law the justices' discretion to make a finding of special reasons.

A failure to give an early explanation might reflect on the *bona fides* of the defendant but his Lordship did not accept that there was a legal duty to give such an explanation.

In *Teape v Godfrey* (1986) 8 T.R. 213, Mr Justice Forbes had said that the duty to provide a specimen included a duty to inform the police of any medical condition which prevented the provision of a specimen. His Lordship differed in that view expressed in that case which was clearly older and which had not considered the effect of the caution.

M^J JUSTICE ROSE said that at the heart of the prosecution's appeal was the argument that a failure to give an explanation at the time for refusing to provide a specimen was fatal to a finding of special reasons. In his Lordship's view that argument failed.

The prosecution further argued

No case over third party's cheque

AEG (UK) Ltd v Lewis

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Hirst [Judgment December 15]

A fitter carrying out repairs to a domestic appliance at the owner's home did not have implied authority from his employer to accept a cheque from a third party for payment for the work.

In the absence of the employer's authority no right of action lay against the third party if the cheque was later dishonoured.

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments so held, Lord Justice Hirst dissenting, dismissing the appeal by the plaintiffs, AEG (UK) Ltd, from the judgment of Judge Kenny in Slough County Court in July 1990 refusing their claim against the defendant, Mrs L. Lewis, on a cheque for £80.

Mr Barry Coulter for the plaintiffs, the defendant was Mrs Cash on a cheque not represented.

M^J JUSTICE McCOWAN said that the plaintiff's fitter had gone to the house of Mr Cash to do work requested by Mr Cash on a gas appliance.

After the work was completed the defendant, who was Mrs Cash's daughter, signed a service repair sheet and gave the fitter a cheque

for £80 for the repairs. Subsequently the defendant stopped the cheque because Mr Cash was dissatisfied with the work.

Judge Kenny held that the plaintiff's claim based on the cheque failed as it was not supported by consideration.

The defendant, he found, was a volunteer who was entitled to change her mind and stop the cheque and there was no legal basis for enforcement proceedings.

M^J Coulter contended that on receipt of the cheque the plaintiffs released the debt owed by Mr Cash which release was consideration for the cheque moving from the plaintiff to Mr Cash. While consideration had to move from the promisee, it need not be move to the promisor.

In the present case, he submitted, the plaintiff suffered a detriment as a result of their fitter accepting Mrs Lewis's cheque in the course of payment for the work done by the fitter.

The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, concurring, said that if the fitter was a volunteer who had authority to accept a cheque instead of cash, and if it is not my employer will look to the person who ordered the work to pay the bill.

The appeal should be dismissed.

M^J JUSTICE HIRST, dissenting, said that the fitter was not given express authority to release Mr Cash's debt. Moreover the evidence established no implied authority to do so.

To allow the appeal on the evidence would be to hold that in any case where a cheque was accepted from someone other than the person who ordered the work, the fitter had authority to release the debt from his debt.

Clearly the fitter was not given express authority to release Mr Cash from his debt. Moreover the evidence established no implied authority to do so.

On presentation.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST, dissenting, said that the crucial question was whether the fitter had authority to release Mr Cash from his obligation on delivery by Mrs Lewis of her cheque.

On the evidence as a whole and in the light of probabilities, the plaintiffs were to be taken as having clothed the fitter with such authority.

On receipt of Mrs Lewis's cheque a contract came into being between the plaintiffs and Mrs Lewis for good consideration and in accordance with section 21(1) of the Bills of Exchange Act 1882.

A consideration to the company might amount to the legal basis of a contract of other types, such as cheques, transactions, for example payment by cheque by a passenger at a filling station for petrol which the car owner had already put in his tank in the absence of a cheque card the passenger would be free to stop his cheque the following day with impunity and the garage would almost certainly be unable to trace the owner.

It was, moreover, to be a matter of concern that the result, if correct, would erode the well-established principle that a cheque was to be treated as the equivalent to cash.

Solicitors: Gregsons, Wimbledon.

Planning immunity after four years

Doncaster Borough Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

The immunity from enforcement notice proceedings after four years, under section 17(2)(b) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (now section 17(1B) of the Town and Country Planning and Compensation Act 1991) applied equally to a breach of planning control consisting of the change of use without planning permission of a single dwelling house into two or more separate dwelling houses as of a single dwelling house.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Simon Brown) so held on December 21 in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the Secretary of State for the Environment against the decision of Mr Justice Webster in the Queen's Bench Division on November 7, 1991, ordering the secretary of state to rehear the appeal of Mr A. Dunnill against an enforcement notice issued by Doncaster Borough Council on June 4, 1990.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that he accepted the secretary of state's essential argument that the language of the section, when construed in the context of sections 55(3)(a) and 33(1), was capable of encompassing subdivision within its protection, and thus it applied so as to benefit all new separate residences after four years.

It followed that only commercial interest which the plaintiff company had at the time of the assignment was a small area of salary, some £10,000, a void agreement, and as Mr Toulson had vividly described it, "a legal aid ticket" which could not possibly amount to an interest sufficient to render the assignment legitimate.

Mr Wright had sought to meet that argument by submitting that Mr Pratt's entitlement to the percentage of clear profit under his service contract should also be taken into account but that could not possibly bridge the wide gap identified by Mr Toulson.

His Lordship would therefore hold both the agreement and the assignment to be unenforceable.

Lord Justice Leggatt delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Glidewell agreed.

Solicitors: Humphreys & Co, Bristol; Herbert Smith.

The exercise of the owners' discretion whether to allow a vessel under the terms of a charterparty to proceed to the port of discharge when they believed that that port of loading was unsafe or dangerous had to be made not in an arbitrary, capricious or unreasonable manner but honestly and fairly in the interests of all the parties.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Leggatt) so held on December 4 when (i) dismissing the appeal of Product Star Shipping Ltd from the decision of Judge Anthony Diamond, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Commercial Court, on July 19, 1991 that their refusal to allow the vessel Product Star to proceed to load was a repudiation of the charterparty of April 6, 1987 made between them and the charterers, Abu Dhabi National Tanker Co and (ii) allowing the owners' appeal from Judge Diamond's decision that damages were to be awarded to the charterers for that breach and varying the quantum awarded.

No set-off on estimate

B. Hargreaves Ltd v Action 2000 Ltd

Where a surveyor's valuation of work commenced under a contract for the construction of a petrol station had been based on his estimation of costs, a set-off clause was not available on an application for summary judgment for those estimates could not in common law readily and without difficulty be ascertainable as a money debt.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Nolan and Sir Christopher Slade) so held on December 8 when dismissing an appeal by Action 2000 Ltd against the decision of Judge Fox Andrews, QC, given in chambers on November 20, 1991 that summary judgment should be made to B. Hargreaves Ltd in its action which had arisen out of a contract for the construction of a petrol station in Manchester.

No liability

Treaty veto hurts Swiss interests says Efta chief

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE Swiss people's clear No on December 6 to European economic integration not only threatens to curb growth in Switzerland but casts doubt on the country's skill in identifying its economic best interests, according to Georg Reisch, secretary-general of the European Free Trade Association (Efta).

Although subsequent opinion polls suggest that many Swiss would now reverse their rejection of the implementation of the European Economic Areas (EEA) agreement — the single market of 380 million consumers encompassing the European Community and Efta — the fear remains that German-speaking Switzerland has effectively shot the financial gnomes of Zurich in the foot.

While only a narrow majority of 50.3 per cent of voters were against the EEA, 16 of the 23 cantons delivered a No to the pact. The German-speaking regions were solidly against it while French speakers were three to one in favour.

In an interview with *The Times*, Dr Reisch, a veteran of international trade diplomacy, made no secret of his disappointment over the Swiss vote.

which he fears could affect voting sentiment in his own country, Austria. The EEA was due to come into force this week, but the Swiss refusal has forced its Efta partners, Austria, Liechtenstein, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Iceland, to delay implementation.

The Nordic members, three of which are about to open formal negotiations with Brussels on membership of the European Community, are meeting in Denmark today. Earlier this month Efta trade ministers agreed to draft an additional protocol to the EEA treaty to allow it to go ahead without Switzerland.

Dr Reisch, convinced that the Swiss will reverse their vote by mid-1994, puts his immediate priority as limiting the economic damage caused by the EEA delay. He stresses that the crucial difference between the EEA agreement and the Maastricht treaty is that Efta can press ahead with implementation of the single market despite the Swiss opt-out. Creating a multi-tiered treaty, Dr Reisch says, would be "completely senseless".

With Switzerland in mind, he points out that the EEA will not only lower trade costs but

improve and guarantee market access for Efta's service industries, as well as improve the integration of Europe's capital markets. Services, he stresses, account for about 60 per cent of the Swiss economy.

A study by Goldman Sachs, the American investment bank, found the main cost to Switzerland of opting out would be lower economic growth in the medium term. Investment diversion away from Switzerland, could cut non-mortgage lending by Swiss banks by 20 per cent.

Dr Reisch is not gloomy about the future, however. He sees a new lease of life for Efta developing its role as a "kindergarten" for countries seeking EC membership. "It could be useful for those countries preparing for economic and political maturity," he says. Efta has already concluded free-trade accords with several eastern and central European economies.

Dr Reisch believes Efta can also "put itself on the back" for other important steps to foster open trade, including progress in the complicated area of national origin of components in increasingly cross-border industries such as car making.



Motoring ahead: Nick Lancaster, chief executive of the Malaya Group, who is currently looking for more potential acquisitions

Malaya moves up a gear with first buy

By OUR CITY STAFF

MALAYA Group, the motor trader, has made its first acquisition since a new management team took a controlling 54 per cent holding in August. It is paying £1.4 million for Western Motor Works (Chiseldon), a profitable Vauxhall dealership based in Chiseldon, Kent, with a body repair business at nearby Belvedere. The deal is £1.1 million in cash and 1.5 million new shares.

Malaya, which recently acquired Dunham & Haines, said the step would further its strategy of building a substantial motor dealers group.

Payment comprises £500,000 of non-interest-bearing loan notes, £300,000 cash and 833,333 shares. A further £35,000 cash is payable when Balde's assets have been determined.

Cavendale, which recently

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Payment comprises £500,000 of non-interest-bearing loan notes, £300,000 cash and 833,333 shares. A further £35,000 cash is payable when Balde's assets have been determined.

Klöckner strikes a deal with its creditors

By OUR WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

Klöckner-Werke, the troubled German steelmaker forced to seek protection from its creditors, has, with the assistance from Deutsche Bank, its lead bank, reached an agreement with creditors.

The deal will allow the company to operate without liquidity problems until February when a commercial court will decide whether to accept Klöckner's petition for Vergleich, the German form of administration akin to Chapter 11 protection in America. The administration request concerns DM2.7 billion owed by the Ruhr-based steelmaker.

Nick Christoph von Rohr, the chairman of Klöckner's management board, told reporters that the company was still studying the merits of operating its steel activities alone, or in co-operation with another company.

Discussions with the Dutch steelmaker, Hoogovens, and other possible partners, continue, he said.

Klöckner has made clear that, if it continues to produce steel after reorganisation of its debt, it would close down one of its two production sites. Industry analysts believe that this will mean a withdrawal from the Ruhr, its traditional home, and a refocusing on the North Sea coastal city of Bremen, where its most efficient plant is located. Such a move could cost almost 8,000 steel jobs in the Duisburg area.

The Klöckner petition applied only to the group's loss-making steel activities, leaving its profitable non-steel operations unaffected.

The company produces about 2.8 million tonnes of steel a year, less than a third of the leading German producer, Thyssen.

Olivetti gives warning of large loss for year

OLIVETTI, the Italian computer maker, expects to make a 1992 operating loss of £300-350 million (£141-164 million), Corrado Passera, the managing director, said. "To that figure we will add the extraordinary costs of restructuring in addition to tax," he said in an interview in *Il Sole 24 Ore*. In 1991, Olivetti made an operating loss of £28 billion. He did not say what the consolidated loss would be but said it would not be light.

Turnover for the year would be just under £8,000 billion, down £700 billion from a year earlier, he added. Last year, Olivetti made a consolidated loss of £45.8 billion. Net debt in 1992 would touch £1,200 billion, up from £571.9 billion. The company was making a charge of £300 billion for the shedding of 5,000 employees.

Johnson quits Invesco

NICHOLAS Johnson, a former deputy chairman of Invesco MIM, the UK fund management group, in which Li Ka-shing, the Hong Kong entrepreneur, has a 24 per cent stake, has resigned. Invesco MIM said Mr Johnson's leaving was amicable, and followed an earlier change in management structure that came when Lord Stevens of Ludgate, chairman, stepped down as the group's chief executive in August. Charles Brady, now chief executive, has assumed Mr Johnson's responsibilities, which cover the operations in Europe.

Haden subsidiary sold

HADEN MacLellan Holdings, the specialist engineer, has sold Spaldings Agricultural Holdings, a subsidiary, for a total of £8.5 million. Spaldings, which supplies replacement parts, tools and accessories to Britain, Ireland and France, has been acquired by a management team backed by Causeway Capital. The price includes £6 million in cash and the assumption by the buyer of company debts of £2.5 million. In 1991 Spaldings earned profits before tax of £88,000 after interest costs of £42,000 on turnover of £18 million.

Qualcast cuts loose

BLUE Circle Industries has sold Atco Qualcast, its loss-making garden-products company, to the management for £1.7 million. Atco Qualcast markets lawnmowers and other spare parts. In 1991, the company recorded an operating loss of £1.7 million. The management buyout has been backed by Candover Investments. Charles Young, chief executive of Blue Circle's home products division, said £1.7 million was a "good price".

DAF reduces working

DAF, the loss-making truck builder, will put 2,800 of its 5,000 employees in The Netherlands on half-time for six weeks in January and February, a spokesman for the company said. The Dutch government will top up the salaries of employees affected by the move so they will not suffer any loss, he added. Production was halted at the company's main Eindhoven factory over the Christmas holiday and will only return to normal in the eighth week of 1993, he added.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar

1.5330 (+0.0345)

German mark

2.4408 (-0.0123)

Exchange index

79.5 (-0.9)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share

2165.6 (+18.0)

FT-SE 100

2827.5 (+37.8)

New York Dow Jones

3326.24 (+12.97)

Tokyo Nikkei Avg

17648.85 (-31.89)

Stock Comprising Condition	Stock Stock Condition	Price +/- 1991 1992	1991 1992	1991 1992	1991 1992	1991 1992	1991 1992
SHORTS (under 5 years)							
400 Fund 95 1992	99%	1.65	0.83	1.21	1.00	0.90	0.80
500 Fund 95 1990	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1992	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1990	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1991	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1992	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1993	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1994	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1995	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1996	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1997	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1998	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 1999	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2000	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2001	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2002	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2003	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2004	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2005	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2006	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2007	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2008	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2009	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2010	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2011	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2012	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2013	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2014	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2015	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2016	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2017	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2018	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2019	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2020	100%	1.25	0.83	1.43	1.00	0.80	0.70
1,000 Fund 95 2021	100%</td						

COMMENT

A mountain of work in store

An innocent-looking pamphlet from Price Waterhouse, the accountants, asks: '1993 — Are You Ready?' Its scope is confined to coping with the effects of changes in the VAT regulations for any business buying, selling or transferring goods to or from another EC country from January 1. The abolition of mainstream customs formalities effectively shifts the VAT obligations from shippers and forwarders to the company's own accounting system. Collection of intra-EC trade statistics will also fall on importers and exporters. The result — extra work. Paid work for accountancy consultants but not for harassed traders. As Price Waterhouse notes: 'The proposals will undoubtedly mean changes to accounting systems and possibly to whole computerised information systems'.

Some traders will have to cope with even more complexity. For instance, mail order houses selling more than 100,000 ecu's worth of goods to consumers in any other EC country will have to register and account for VAT there as well, though registration thresholds vary and will be much lower in some member states. Triangular trade, involving a sale to a company in one country for delivery in another, is possibly the most difficult area of the 1993 changes and each situation will need to be considered individually to ensure the correct treatment. A different set of rules covers services.

So much for the dawn of an exciting new era of opportunity in the opening of the single European market. Could anything be better guaranteed to wake managers more rudely from the afterglow of Christmas? Such realities weigh more heavily than a dozen speeches from Neil Hamilton, the trade minister, heralding vigorous government campaigns to cut red tape. To the government, after all, the abolition of intra-EC customs is a breakthrough in deregulation. Once business has made the change, there should indeed be a net benefit. The headache comes first.

Sadly, EC single market regulations provide only one of many instances where managers will need to ask themselves whether they are ready for 1993, before they get down to staying in business, selling goods and even making progress. Domestic regulation will cause mountains of work, much of it in good causes. Public companies will need to draw up their accounts in different ways to meet new accounting standards. Most boardrooms will need to be reorganised to comply with the Cadbury code. Scouts will be looking for undiscovered hordes of bright but safe non-executive directors — don't call us we'll call you. Even companies launched on the stock markets in recent years with what were then model practices will need to make some changes.

Spare a thought for British Gas, which must spend much of its management effort in 1993 justifying its very existence to the monopolies commission. Privatised utilities, which account for a good slice of Britain's wealth creation, routinely appear to spend about a third of their top management time dealing with regulatory matters. In too many instances times are far from normal. To help the government dig itself out of its own political pit, the coal and electricity industries will be particularly pre-occupied, long before they can focus their efforts on such mundane matters as raising productivity or generating and delivering power more efficiently. Pension managers, likewise, will have far more than investment returns on their minds as they prepare for legislative reform. The pensions industry may finally have to make the change to paperless share trading, before worrying about the daily demands of clients.

As if all this were not enough, business will need to change its mentality from coping with recession to planning for recovery, preferably somewhere near the top of the priorities for 1993. Get it chaps.

Anatole Kaletsky looks back over his forecasts for a year in which limited economic successes were shrouded in political failure

In the past two years, I have tried to lighten the seasonal gloom that now seems to settle on the world at Christmas by offering some unconventional predictions for the coming 12 months. My hunches about 1993 will appear next Monday but, first, a review of 1992, built round an audit of how my forecasts have worked out.

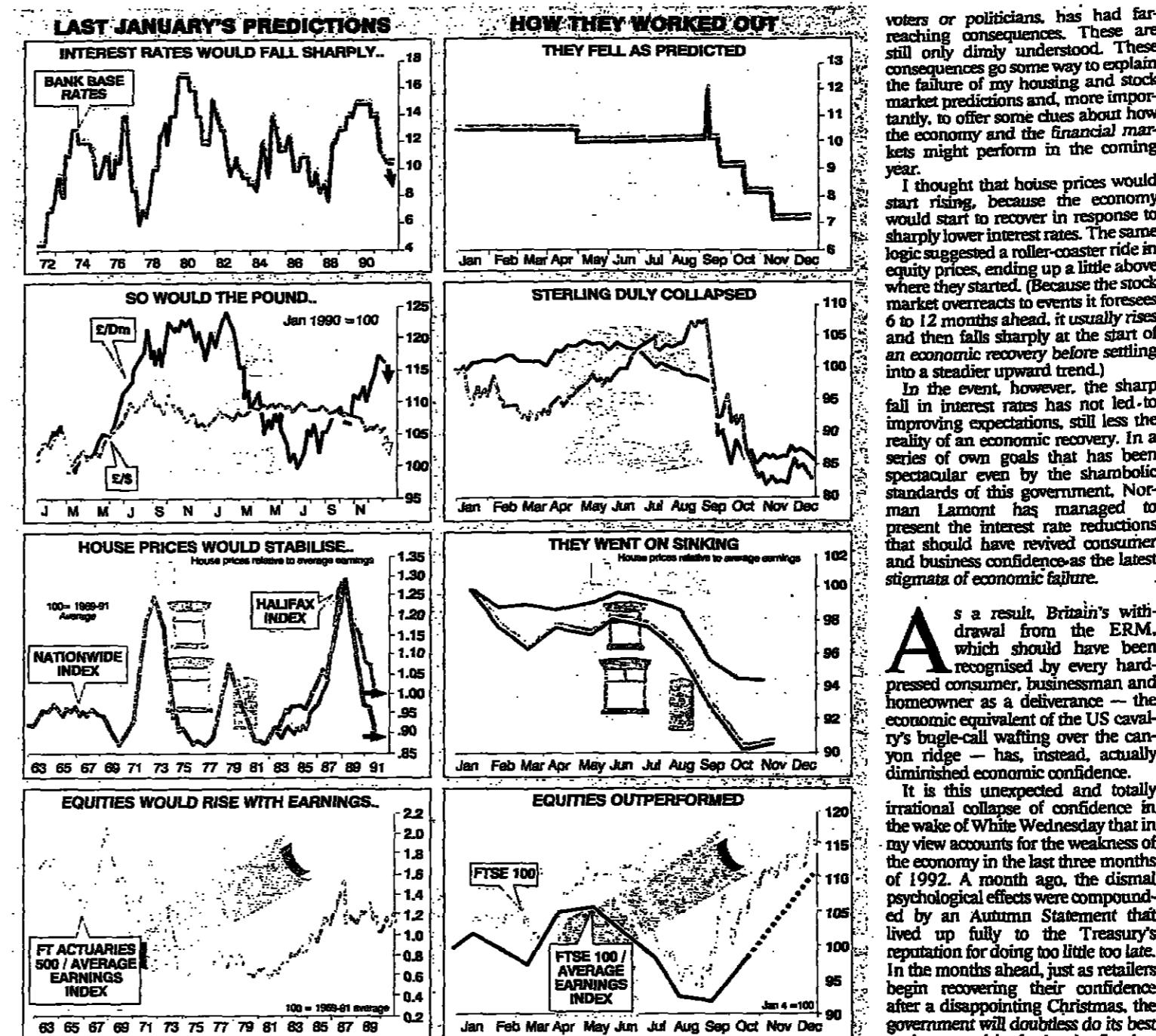
Last January, I made four hopeful predictions. First, I said that interest rates (which were then 10.5 per cent) would fall to 7 or 8 per cent by the end of the year, regardless of who won the election, what happened to the ERM, or any other political and economic conditions. Second, I said the pound (which was then at \$1.90 and DM2.85) would fall unconditionally against the dollar (which, at the end of last year appeared to be in free-fall). Against the mark, I felt the pound had more of a chance, since Germany was clearly on the brink of an economic and political mess that the Bundesbank and the market might just wake up to in the first few months of the year. If, however, German interest rates were not cut sharply in the first few months of 1992, the pound would certainly be devalued in the second half of the year, regardless of unflinching commitment to the ERM.

My third hunch was less numerically precise. The Bundesbank would increasingly be blamed for all economic problems in Britain and Europe and would lose much of its respect. Inside Germany, it would be discredited by creating an economic slump and ruining the hopes of reunification, yet still failing to stop inflation. Externally, the German central bank would be accused of trying to sabotage or delay monetary union, yet it would still find itself submerged in some kind of pan-European institution well before the Maastricht deadline of 1999.

Finally, I rashly made some financial predictions. Britain's housing market would begin to recover and prices would start to rise at about the same rate as workers' average earnings. The stock market, which had fallen so steeply at the end of November 1991 that some City analysts were predicting a replay of Black Monday, also seemed likely to rise by the end of 1992, but only by about as much as average earnings. In the meantime, however, there would be some "huge gyrations", perhaps echoing a run-up in Wall Street as recovery in America gets under way, followed by a 1987-style crash in the summer, after investors have thrown caution to the winds".

How, then, did I do? At first sight,

In 1992, even the things that went right did so for the wrong reasons



the record of two clear hits out of four would seem little better than that of the proverbial monkey with a typewriter. The truth is both better and worse (remember economists are always ambidextrous). The forecast of 7 per cent interest rates (which was the one readers found least plausible a year ago) may have been a bull's eye, and the assertion that sterling was bound to be devalued in the second half of the year was also spot on. Unfortunately, however, both were right for the wrong reasons.

I thought that interest rates would be slashed because John Major would be moved by the prospect of losing the election. And if Mr Major did not understand that interest rates would have to fall below 8 per cent to start a recovery, the electorate would finally have the chance to replace him with someone who had a better grasp

of economics. If he failed to cut interest rates, Neil Kinnock would soon be prime minister and desperate to consolidate his minority government. He would not waste time worrying about commitments to the ERM. This mistaken political analysis led me to the correct conclusion not only on interest rates, but also on sterling's devaluation against the mark.

In the event, of course, it was not the electorate but the foreign exchange markets that rummaged Mr Major. The speculators reasoned exactly as I had suggested: an economic recovery would be impossible as long as Britain's monetary policy remained tied to the Bundesbank's; ergo, Britain would have to leave the ERM. Unfortunately for the prime

minister, the investors who saw so clearly through the contradictions of British economic policy were not yet ready to apply the same critical faculties to Germany. Only in the last few weeks have the markets begun to rumble the German "economic miracle". Few investors are yet prepared to acknowledge that the Bundesbank could visit with the British Treasury in a contest for economic incompetence. Last January, I felt certain that sterling would fall against the dollar, but thought the mark might do so as well, as the Bundesbank's reputation suffered. In the event the mark weakened only slightly, by less than 5 per cent, while sterling plunged by 18 per cent. But this story is not over, of which more next week.

Returning to Britain and the ERM, the way that the Gordian knot was cut by speculators, instead of

voters or politicians, has had far-reaching consequences. These are still only dimly understood. These consequences go some way to explain the failure of my housing and stock market predictions and, more importantly, to offer some clues about how the economy and the financial markets might perform in the coming year.

I thought that house prices would start rising, because the economy would start to recover in response to sharply lower interest rates. The same logic suggested a roller-coaster ride in equity prices, ending up a little above where they started. (Because the stock market overreacts to events it foresees 6 to 12 months ahead, it usually rises and then falls sharply at the start of an economic recovery before settling into a steadier upward trend.)

In the event, however, the sharp fall in interest rates has not led to improving expectations, still less the reality of an economic recovery. In a series of own goals that has been spectacular even by the shambolic standards of this government, Norman Lamont has managed to present the interest rate reductions that should have revived consumer and business confidence as the latest stigma of economic failure.

As a result, Britain's withdrawal from the ERM, which should have been recognised by every hard-pressed consumer, businessman and homeowner as a deliverance — the economic equivalent of the US cavalry's bugle-call wafting over the canyon ridge — has, instead, actually diminished economic confidence.

It is this unexpected and totally irrational collapse of confidence in the wake of White Wednesday that in my view accounts for the weakness of the economy in the last three months of 1992. A month ago, the dismal psychological effects were compounded by an Autumn Statement that lived up fully to the Treasury's reputation for doing too little too late. In the months ahead, just as retailers begin recovering their confidence after a disappointing Christmas, the government will doubtless do its best to depress spirits further by floating stories about the need for higher taxes in the Budget and by keeping back the further cuts in interest rates, now desperately needed, as a sweetener for Budget time.

The upshot is that the recovery is taking much longer to come through than I had expected. And the economy is far weaker than it might have been by now if interest rates had been cut to 7 or even 8 per cent as a deliberate act of policy, reflecting either economic sanity or political expedience.

In the end, however, the economics of low interest rates will prevail over the psychology of recession. The recovery will surely now take place. Thus, the predictions on house prices and stock market movements should still be realised, but along with the loss of faith in the Bundesbank, they will have to be deferred into next year. More about that next week.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Anti-European undertones in Russian 'gradualism'

From Mr Andrei Ostalsky Sir, I was quite surprised by Wolfgang Münchau's commentary in the edition of December 22, or, rather, not by the article itself (it can be argued that different perceptions must be reported), but by the way you chose to present it as a "European View".

It is true, that similar notions are now shared by many in Russia itself. In fact, there is a well-orchestrated campaign going on to advocate the so-called "gradual" approach to reforms. But hardly anyone in the former USSR fails to feel its anti-European, anti-Western undertone. So that a

Self-sufficiency seems a dying art

From Ms Mary Patten Sir, I support Mr Chris Philip (December 16) re PO newspaper deliveries. At the outbreak of WWII I was five and living on a farm in Sussex. I clearly remember the postman delivering not only the post, but also *The Times* and other "illicit" goods to us and people likewise stranded. Aged ten, I was "ordered" by my father, a senior Home Guard officer, to cycle three miles to the nearest garage, to have the wireless

batteries recharged.

Self-sufficiency, although much talked about, seems to be a dying art. Now living in suburbia, I am bombarded by my postman and others with junk leaflets. Why? With the co-operation of the PO, people in rural areas could have the pleasure of reading the news — as opposed to just viewing it, which is quite a different matter.

M. A. PATTEN
41 Bushwood Road,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

Short memory

From Mr Peter Spring Sir, Your front page article (December 16) titled 'Break up of British Gas demanded by watchdog' says: 'Ofgas, the regulatory body, rejects suggestions its proposals would amount to a breach of faith with shareholders. We believe that the terms of the offer for sale ceased to have any legal or moral standing several years ago.' Ofgas said.

How can this be reconciled with the following comment in *The Economist*? "He (the regulator) discounts speculation that British Gas should be broken up like the electricity industry, with the national pipeline vested in an independently-run company. In his view, the legal and political complications of reneging on the 1986 sale prospectus effectively rule that out." This dates to December 15, 1990 — perhaps somewhat less than seven years ago.

Should all government privatisation documents now carry a health warning stating clearly that nothing contained within should be construed as having any legal or moral worth whatsoever?

Yours faithfully,
PETER SPRING,
155 Elms Crescent,
SW4.

Access's excess zeal

From Mr Peter J. R. Bradley Sir, Dr Coatsworth should worry about Barclaycard interest (Business letters, December 17).

Access charged me £8 interest on £120 and paid early. Only when I challenged Midland Bank's chief executive was it refunded.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BRADLEY.
14 West Street,
Buckingham.

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY



"Yoo hoo — I'm home."

There is a difference, you know."

Women's network

THE lobby to get more women on company boards has been unimpressed, so far, by Pro Ned, the agency that specialises in finding independent non-executive directors. Now, however, Margaret Brewster, Pro Ned's research head, is helping the City Women's Network produce a register of high-flying City women bankers and lawyers of non-executive calibre. Eve Newbold, company secretary of Hanson, and former CWN member, believes it is a good idea. "So far, Pro Ned has not done much for women," she says. "I'm frequently asked if I can nominate women as non-executives in various fields. Charman simply doesn't know where to find them." Newbold is reportedly offering large pay increases to persuade key analysts to remain, much to the anger of commission-earning salesmen. Bill Blair, the firm's star pharmaceuticals analyst, is a recent entrant in the top ten in *Exetel's* league table, is said to have been offered a 100 per cent pay rise to ensure his loyalty, but he has denied that any such offer has been made.

"That would have been nice but the answer is emphatically no," he says. Meanwhile, amid intense interest, the firm continues to insist that Gilmour Thom, also a director and one of the firm's most popular members of staff, is not suspended but on holiday until January 4. The financial community in the Scottish capital is waiting with bated breath...

Scotched rumours

SPECULATION in Edinburgh watering holes about threatened mass walkouts at Bell Lawrie White, the broker, first reported here last week, refuses to die down. Frank Malcolm, a director known affectionately as Frankenstein, is reportedly offering large pay increases to persuade key analysts to remain, much to the anger of commission-earning salesmen. Bill Blair, the firm's star pharmaceuticals analyst, is a recent entrant in the top ten in *Exetel's* league table, is said to have been offered a 100 per cent pay rise to ensure his loyalty, but he has denied that any such offer has been made.

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CAROL LEONARD

THE TIMES

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BBC1

7.00 News, regional news and weather (5834900)
 7.10 Children's BBC begins with *Horatio Spencer*. Puppet series (1) (2619876) 7.35 *Babar*. Adventures of a regal young elephant (1) (9113707)
 8.00 News, regional news and weather (7841558) 8.10 *Cuckooland*. Comedy series from New Zealand (1) (2610639) 8.35 *Swamp Thing*. Adventures of a part-man, part-plant creature (1) (1623638)
 9.00 News, regional news and weather (5832320) 9.05 *Come Midnight Monday*. Episode five (1) (4195720) 9.25 *Why Don't You...?* Entertaining ideas for young people at a loose end (1) (2336320)
 10.05 *Playdays* (1) (6793417)
 10.30 Film: *Ferry To Hong Kong* (1961) starring Curt Jurgens, Orson Welles and Sylvia Syms. Ponderous international drama about a ferry captain who is lured away with a drunken layabout. Their antipathy disappears when they have to rely on each other for survival during a violent storm. Directed by Lewis Gilbert, now better known for *Shirley Valentine* (1975) (5725417)
 12.30 Cartoon: *Pico* (155962) 12.25 *Animal Sanctuary*. A portrait of Bustow Wildlife Sanctuary, near Warwick, founded in 1989 by Penny Boyd. (Ceefax) (s) (5127455) 12.35 *Regional News and Weather* (5815889)
 1.00 News with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) (s) (4071832) 1.10 *Neighbours*. (Ceefax) (s) (4927387)
 1.30 Film: *That's Entertainment* (1976). Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire present clips from films made during the golden days of MGM musicals. (Ceefax) (s) (1525185)
 3.35 *Cartoon Double Bill* (5637455) 3.50 *Pingu*. Adventures of a clumsy penguin (1) (7712423) 3.55 *Noddy* (s) (5319320) 4.05 *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The first of a two-part drama based on the novels of C.S. Lewis (1) (Ceefax) (s) (8440184)
 5.00 *The Best of Blue Peter*. Highlights of the reports from Spain, Brazil, Hungary and the Falklands. (Ceefax) (s) (9318252)
 5.35 *Neighbours* (1) (Ceefax) (s) (724271)
 6.00 News with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) (s) (580542)
 6.15 *Regional News Magazines* (585097)
 6.30 *The World's Strongest Man*. Ten mighty men in tests of strength and endurance against the backdrop of Iceland's dramatic scenery. (Ceefax) (s) (72146)
 7.30 *EastEnders*. (Ceefax) (s) (368)
 8.00 *Citizen Smith*. The 10th Christmas edition of John Sullivan's comedy starring Robert Lindsay as Wolfe, the leader of the Tooting Popular Front. As Wolfe's girlfriend is in Italy for Christmas he decides to go on and pay her a visit. (Ceefax) (s) (2271)
 8.30 *A Question of Sport* presented by David Coleman. Tonight Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham are joined by Carlton Palmer, Willie Carson, Jane Sibson and Mike Atherton. (Ceefax) (s) (2078)
 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) *Regional news and weather* (58300)



Aping gorillas: Sigourney Weaver as Dian Fossey (9.30pm)

9.30 Film: *Gorillas in the Mist* (1988). CHOICE: Sigourney Weaver, who after a gruelling stint with the Alien cycle is no stranger to playing tough and resourceful women, stars as the anthropologist Dian Fossey in a sturdy biopic from the British director Michael Apted. It is a film of two parts. In the first we follow Fossey's mission to save the threatened mountain gorillas in the African Congo, falling foul of the local military and having a brief affair with a photographer (Bryan Brown). We then skip five years, by which time Fossey has become a belligerent loner and is plagued by ill-health. More thanks to Weaver's dedicated performance than a script which stays mainly on the surface, this becomes a strong and involving film and ultimately a heroic one. But the heroine, who comes to put animals before humans, is easier to admire than to like. (Ceefax) (s) (7293345)
 11.35 *Curtis Stigers Live in Concert*. The soul singer recorded at the Corn Exchange, Cambridge (s) (202829)
 12.25 *Sam Weather* (5294837)

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 As London except: 1.30pm *Cartoon Time* (2185276) 3.25-3.45 *Wish You Were Here* (71052123) 4.00 *ITV News* (21852123) 4.30 *Regional News* (5285545) 5.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (320613)
 7.30-8.00 *Food Guide* (438)

BORDER
 As London except: 8.30pm-7.00 Home and Away (222) 9.00-10.15 *Film*. An Officer and a Gentleman (151243) 10.30-11.40 *An Officer and a Gentleman* (151243) (8972171)
 3.20am-5.05 *Film*: *Crash* (269505)

CENTRAL
 As London except: 8.25pm-7.00 *Central News* (320613)
GRAMPIAN
 As London except: 8.25pm *It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet* (8220349) 5.15-6.45 *Home and Away* (7076122) 6.00 *North Tonight* (2000) 8.30-7.00 *Take the High Road* (232) 9.00-10.15 *Film*: *Crash* (269505)

GRANADA
 As London except: 3.25-3.45 *Invitation to Remember* (Sir John Mills) (318237)
 6.30-7.00 *Granada Tonight* (222) 9.00 *10.15 *Film*: *An Officer and a Gentleman* (151243) 10.30-11.40 *An Officer and a Gentleman* (151243) (8972171) 3.20-5.00 *Film*: *Crash* (269505)*

TSW
 As London except: 6.00 *TSW Today* (900) 6.30-7.00 Home and Away (222) 3.20am-5.00 *Film*: *Crash* (269505)

TVS
 As London except: 3.25-3.45 *Bulseye* (3192267) 6.00 *Coast to Coast* (900) 6.30-7.00 Home and Away (222)

RADIO 3

6.55am *Weather*
 7.00 Music to Mozart's Ears: Mozart (Bassoon Concerto in B flat, K191); Haydn: Academy of Ancient Music under Christopher Hogwood; Kraus (String Quartet No 5 in C; Lysell Quartet); Davaud (Symphonic concertos on patriotic airs: Concerto Kän, with violin and viola, violin, Andrea Keller, violin)
 8.00 News
 8.03 Music to Mozart's Ears (cont): Kraus (Flute Quintet in D; Lysell, Flute, Jepp, Schröder and Per Sandström); Davaud (String Quartet); Kari Olofsson (cello); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 20 in D minor, K468); Christopher Kite, fortepiano; Hanover Band under Roy Goodman)
 9.00 Composer of the Month: Brahms, Les Brigands. Overture and Act 1 — excerpt (Lyon Opera Chorus and Orchestra under Richard Hickox); Monte (Serenade in G, K523, Eine kleine Nachtmusik); Academy of St. Martin's Chamber Ensemble; Remy-Konetzko (Suite, The Snow Maiden: Scottish National Orchestra under Neeme Järvi)
 10.00 *Morning Sequence*: Remy-Konetzko (Suite, Christmas Eve: Scottish National Orchestra under Neeme Järvi); Schubert (String Quartet in D minor, D610, Death and the Maiden; Amadis Quartet); Fritz (Nocturne, New Year Music: Northern Sinfonia of England under Richard Hickox); Monte (Serenade in G, K523, Eine kleine Nachtmusik); Academy of St. Martin's Chamber Ensemble; Remy-Konetzko (Suite, The Snow Maiden: Scottish National Orchestra under Neeme Järvi)
 12.00 *O Magnum Miraculum*: In this seasonal concert, recorded at St John's Smith Square, the Hilliard Ensemble performs a selection of musical Christmas music and songs from Eastern Europe (1)
 1.00pm *News*
 1.05 *Rotterdam* (D) under Valery Gergiev performs Prokofiev (Suite, Summer Night, The Dusanna; Piano Concerto No 3; Alexander Borodai; Stravinsky (The Rite of Spring))

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
 TV CHIEF: WAYMARK/RADIO CHIEF: KENNETH GARDIN

BBC2

6.55 Film: *Samson and Delilah* (1949) starring Victor Mature and Hedy Lamarr. Cecil B. DeMille's crude and gash epic about the strongman who loses his heart and his locks to a Philistine beauty. (2726576)
 9.00 Film: *The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle* (1938, b/w). The Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers season continues with this pleasing musical biopic of the popular dancing couple whose success was curtailed by the first world war. Directed by H.C. Potter (19504)
 10.30 *Charlie Chalk*. Animation (1) (8272761)
 10.45 Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* starring Bernadette Peters and Chap Zien. An adult musical fairy tale (1) (Ceefax) (s) (14904252)
 1.20 *Nikolaeva Plays Shostakovich*. Tatiana Nikolaeva plays preludes and fugues 18 to 21 (s) (31178423) 1.45 *Adam* (1) (s) (2194981)
 1.50 *Gerald Evans Masterclass*. A study of Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes (1) (5893368) 2.50 *The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures*. Professor Charles Stirling discusses left- and right-handedness in the natural world (2015146) 3.50 *The Works: The Fox*. A look at the world of fastenings (1) (Ceefax) (s) (5344788)
 4.10 Film: *Suspicion* (1941, b/w) starring Cary Grant and, in an Oscar-winning performance, Joan Fontaine. The Alfred Hitchcock season concludes with this thriller about an heiress who marries a charming fortune hunter and suspects he may be trying to murder her (24508813)
 5.50 *Life With Eliza*. Edwardian comedy drama. (Ceefax) (s) (831788)
 6.00 *Winter Christmas Comes To Willow Creek* (1987) starring John Schneider and Tom Wopat. The former *Dukes of Hazzard* boys play feuding truckers who have to get a seasonal cargo of oranges from California to a town in time for Christmas. With Hoy Axton. Directed by Phineas Leng (58518)
 7.30 *Talking Magritte*. Personal interpretations of the work of surreal Dutch painter René Magritte. (Ceefax) (s) (610)
 8.00 *Winter Dreams*. The late Sir Kenneth Macmillan's ballet, inspired by Chekhov's *The Three Sisters*, with music by Tchaikovsky and danced by Nicola Tranah, Darcey Bussell and Viviana Durante (s) (5981)
 8.30 *The New Headlines* (7175455) 3.20 *Thames News Headlines* (7172368)

Fangs for the memory: Omar Ebrahim opens wide (9.00pm)

9.00 *The Vampire — a Soap Opera*. CHOICE: An obscure work by the 19th-century composer Heinrich Marschner is relocated to contemporary London, given new lyrics by Charles Hart of *Phantom of the Opera* and presented in five consecutive night chunks. The brainchild of Janet Street-Porter, the head of BBC youth programmes, the project seems aimed at folks who normally give opera a miss. The melodic/rhythmic story line requires the Vampire (Omar Ebrahim), alias a property tycoon, to kill three women in as many days to win another year of life. It is told in a restless pop video style and features much naked romping. The production is not so much modern dress as modern undress. The music is agreeable, the words (as far as one can decipher them) are on the colloquial side and the attractive young singers shed their clothes with dignity (s) (737265)
 9.25 *The Boog Man*. CHOICE: A seasonal offering from Scotland stars Robbie Coltrane as a schizoid man who escapes from a mental hospital dressed as Santa Claus, thinks he is Humphrey Bogart and walks the mean streets of Glasgow in a plot vaguely borrowed from *The Maltese Falcon*. Paul Pender's script is full of in-jokes for movie buffs, includes a character called Lauren MacCall and offers a fair pastiche of iconic Hammett-Chandler dialogue. The visual style, too, evokes the spirit of the private eye movie with its studied shots of dark city streets and seedy bars. A bonus, apparently not borrowed from *forties Hollywood*, is an elderly landlady-cum-taxidermist played with relish by Jean Anderson. (Ceefax) (s) (475875)
 10.25 Film: *Earth Girls Are Easy* (1988) starring Geena Davis and Jeff Goldblum. Musical satire directed by Julian Temple. (Ceefax) (s) (768165)
 12.00 Film: *Invaders From Mars* (1953) starring Helena Carter and Leif Erickson. Stylish sci-fi drama directed by William Cameron Menzies (2482627) 1.20am *Weather* (3073214). Ends at 6.00

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Children's animation (3369037)
 7.45 *Attack of the Big Right* (1988)
 8.00 *Carson Adventures* (616455)
 8.15 *Sam the Eagle* (2014226) 8.20 *Howard the Duck* (2014227)
 8.30 *The Truth About Wozens* (1988)
 8.45 Film: *Frankenstein — The Reel Story* (1982) starring Patrick Bergin, Randy Quaid and John Mills. A handsome and faithful adaptation of Mary Shelley's horror classic by writer/director David Wickes, who made the recent television versions of *Jekyll and Hyde* and *Jack the Ripper*. Filmed in Poland and Pinewood studios, it is the story of a scientist who discovers the miraculous power to give life to inanimate objects. His initial euphoria disappears when he realises he has created a monster he cannot control. Continues after the news (1512453)

ITV LONDON

6.00 *TV-am* (502271)
 9.25 *The New Adventures of He-Man*. Animated adventures (5222726) 9.50 *Thames News* (9736894) 9.55 *Disney Cartoons*, Donald Duck in *No Hunting* (r) (7975165)
 10.00 Film: *Pollyanna* (1960) starring Hayley Mills. A Disney adaptation of Eleanor H. Porter's children's story about how the arrival of a young orphan girl at her aunt's house in a small American town raises the spirits of the depressed community. Directed by David Swift (420417)

12.30 *Lunchtime News*. (Oracle) Weather (1277146) 12.50 *Thames News* (11983146) 1.00 *Home and Away*. Australian family drama serial (Oracle) (69908)

1.30 Film: *The Miracle of the White Stallions* (1962) starring Robert Taylor and Lilli Palmer. Stodgy second world war drama about the director of the Flying School in Nazi-occupied Vienna who plans the daring evacuation of his valuable Lipizzaner horses. Directed by Arthur Hiller (81498813)

3.15 *ITN News Headlines* (7175455) 3.20 *Thames News Headlines* (7172368)

6.00 *Home and Away* (r) (Oracle) (800)

10.40 Just for Laughs: Clips from classic British comedy films (252)

7.00 *Merrie England*. Yorkshire Dales drama serial. (Oracle) (2691)

7.30 *Jimmy's*. A festive visit to St James's University Hospital, Leeds (s) (436)

8.00 *The Big High Places*. DI Burmese has to find a link between a series of robberies and the body of a former circus entertainer who drifted into crime, found under a railway bridge. Starring Christopher Ellison. (Oracle) (6859)

8.30 *Brives across Europe*: lorry driver Howard Law (8.00pm)

8.45 *Truckers*. A lively documentary on the culture of the international lorry driver follows Howard Law, a burly and cheerfully xenophobic Bristolian, on a trip to Turkey with a cargo of razors. A former marine who has seen service in Ulster and the Falklands, Law is no romantic knight of the road. He does a job of work and has no illusions about it. Travelling through Europe means negotiating a bureaucratic obstacle course and Law knows when to slip the right sweetener. Istanbul is known to truckers as Marbore country because of the cigarettes they have to give out as bribes. No respecter of settled relationships, trucking has cost Howard two marriages and he says his only friends are the people he meets on the road. He still likes the sense of adventure. David Bean's amusing commentary adds gamish to a tasty meal (s34

Damage expected
from trade
treaty veto

BUSINESS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 29 1992

COMMENT 30

VAT complexities
pile up
for companies

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Consultants called in for four-month review

British Coal may order heavy management cuts

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Coal has hired consultants to review its management structure with a view to achieving huge cuts in overhead costs.

The review is expected to recommend the closure of some or all of British Coal's five headquarters groups, with widespread job cuts among the corporation's 3,000 non-collective management staff.

A notice of possible redundancies has already been sent to each of the corporation's sites. The warnings are designed to enable British Coal to move fast to implement cuts once the government review of the industry's prospects is complete in late January.

The removal of the middle management tier between the Hobart House head office in London and the mine managers is the logical consequence of the declining numbers of pits and forceful criticism, both in a report commissioned last year from John T Boyd, the American consultant, and

■ British Coal is preparing to move swiftly to cut costs, once the government review of the industry is completed in late January. Cuts could fall heavily among managers

within the corporation, that British Coal has failed to give sufficient freedom to mine managers.

If British Coal is allowed to complete the 31 pit closures, with the loss of 30,000 jobs, announced on October 13, the cost of maintaining some headquarters groups will fall disproportionately on a handful of collieries.

The north east region, which now runs five pits, has only one colliery, Ellington, that is a sure survivor of the current review. Vane Tempest has already closed and seems unlikely to reopen, and the future of three other pits under industry department review.

The Midland and Wales region is expected to either disappear or be merged with Nottingham, while Selby and South Yorkshire regions al-

ready share the same building.

However, Resource Decision Systems, the latest consultant, which is part of the LEK partnership, has been given a free hand to draw up a new management structure that will cover British Coal from coal-face to chairman's office, and which will be sufficiently robust to pilot British Coal through privatisation, should the government ultimately decide to proceed with a sale.

Ray Proctor of LEK said: "The review is to be a fundamental one. None of the existing organisational divisions are sacrosanct."

Resource Division Systems has been given four months to draw up proposals for a new management structure. The time-frame will allow the consultants to adjust their recommendations to suit the findings of the government's review.

According to a report in *Coal UK*, the industry newsletter, British Coal is seeking to reduce overheads by half in the next 12 months. *Coal UK* estimates that at present, overheads amount to 7p per gigajoule of coal mined, or about 4.6 per cent of the price at which the corporation has offered coal to electricity generating companies. Costs have already more than halved since 1987-8.

Bert Wheeler, British Coal's operations director, is reported to have told *Coal UK* that the corporation aimed to "remove a tier of management", granting collieries more self sufficiency. But the review may result in an increased role for the corporation's operational headquarters, at Eastwood Hall, Nottingham.

The consultants have been asked to advise on bringing together the production planning of deep-mined coal and British Coal's opencast operations. Surface mining, currently running at more than 17 million tonnes of coal a year, will play an increasingly important role in both total production and coal-blending as the number of deep mines is reduced.

In addition, the review will will increased opportunities for out-sourcing of skills and services, and review the functions of the corporation's head office at Hobart House, overlooking the gardens of Buckingham Palace in London.

Some of the impending job losses are expected to fall within the 30,000 reduction signalled by British Coal in October. Even if the government grants a reprieve to 10 to 15 pits, as now expected, British Coal's manpower is expected to continue to decline, as a result of efficiency improvements both at regional management level and below ground.

TUC sees loophole in contracting out

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AN IMPENDING change in European law will enable public sector workers to win redress for any loss suffered as a result of the government's policy of contracting out services, the Trade Union Congress believes. The TUC is setting up a special legal unit to advise unions on claims.

Successful legal action by TUC affiliates could throw the shift to "contracting out" into confusion and lead to thousands of back-dated claims. As last week's High Court judgment on pit closures shows, unions are becoming more advanced in their use of the law to win industrial disputes.

The TUC's optimism is founded upon an expected amendment to the European Community Business Trans-

fer Directive. Under this, employees' rights are protected when private companies change hands. But a revision to the directive, expected before the European Council next year, would extend the provisions to public services.

According to the latest draft of the revisions, the directive would cover "public undertakings carrying on activities of an economic nature".

Unions are winning more than £250 million a year in legal awards for their members, says the first study of union legal services by the TUC. The study, of 28 unions representing 89 per cent of TUC membership, showed that in 1991 they pursued more than 150,000 cases and won £250 million damages.

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CNN set for world battle with BBC

CABLE News Network (CNN) is to double its international budget to an estimated \$80 million next year to meet head-on competition from the BBC's new World Service Television (WST).

The US-based 24-hour news network — controlled by Turner Broadcasting System and headed by Ted Turner, the billionaire and husband of Jane Fonda — and WST are expected to battle for dominance of the world-wide television news market for most of the next decade.

WST is said to have grown dramatically since its launch in April 1991 and Chris Irwin, its chief executive, estimates the service is three times stronger than CNN in Asia, commanding viewers in 20 million households.

Through satellite footprints, the BBC can broadcast to 87 per cent of the globe and will close the remaining gap by the end of



Irwin: reaching out

next year (1993). CNN, based in Atlanta, Georgia, claims a world-wide audience of 54 million. In the US, the four Turner Broadcasting stations, which include the US domestic version of CNN, claim viewers in 60

million homes — 94.97 per cent of the market.

After years of struggle, Turner Broadcasting is beginning to show a profit and virtual saturation at home, which means expansion must come from outside the United States.

CNN has been accused of being too US-biased to attract world viewers at any time other than in world crises. In an interview, Mr Turner said: "We are reaching out to internationalise this network as aggressively as we know how."

He plans to cut the amount of US news to 30 per cent and regionalise the content of the remainder.

CNN denies its increased budgets are prompted by the success of the BBC's competition. Mr Peter Vesey, vice-president said: "We're not doing it in response to any particular competition," and says the money will be used to strengthen its coverage over the next three years.

and audience for international news.

The US broadcaster refuses to disclose budgets, but independent television sources put its annual budget this year at \$40 million, financing 19 international bureaux.

The BBC's WST is said to be operating 100 of its own staff on half that figure. With a CNN budget doubled to \$80 million next year, the BBC will attempt to compete with just a quarter of the money.

WST's Mr Irwin said: "The BBC has been in the business of international broadcasting for 60 years. It has a very good brand presence."

Neither service is believed to be making a profit, but Turner Broadcasting is growing deep pockets. Wall Street estimates that it will triple earnings and double its asset base to \$11 billion over the next three years.

Striving for change: Peter Middleton and David Rowland plan a slimming exercise

Lloyd's top men embark on drive to reduce costs

By SARAH BAGNALL

DAVID Rowland, who becomes chairman of Lloyd's of London at the start of the new year, and Peter Middleton, the recently arrived chief executive, are preparing to reduce costs at the 300-year-old insurance market by up to 30 per cent and replace its byzantine committee structure.

They can derive encouragement from evidence that the troubles that have shaken Lloyd's for the past two years may be past their zenith. The flood of names leaving the market is thought to be subsiding and underwriting losses have peaked.

The £2.06 billion loss for the 1989 year of account, reported last June, will, with luck, be relegated to the history books. Further losses of £1 billion are expected for 1990, but the hope is that the market will report a return to profitability for the 1992 year of account.

Against this background of improving fortunes, Mr Rowland and Mr Middleton are poised to tackle the market's myriad problems. Among them are easing the plight of names who have made heavy losses, averting costly litigation by disgruntled names, ensuring adequate underwriting capacity, tackling syndicates with open years and cutting the market's costs.

Mr Rowland says the complexity of the task is compounded by the fact that all the problems are interlinked. He should know. It was the report of the task force he headed, published almost a year ago, that set the present agenda for

change. But before some of the difficulties can be overcome, there are various "housekeeping" issues to be settled. They include the market's cost base, its committee structure and the mass of different computer systems. Mr Rowland explains that these need tidying up first, to create renewed confidence in the leadership and management of Lloyd's and enable the market to tackle the real issues, namely the strategic issues of the market's future profitability.

Mr Middleton adds that "in the first quarter of 1993, there will be a concentration on the major elements of the cost base". The market's cost competitiveness has been eroded as insurance companies have cut their overheads. The target is a cut in costs of 30 per cent. Mr Rowland says.

Also at the top of Lloyd's manifesto for change is the society's byzantine system of committees. The idea is to take a knife to most of the 37 "committees" and "committees of the committees".

Mr Middleton said the majority of these committees are likely to go, with members of the newly established market board taking responsibility for the issues.

The setting up of the market board, the 18 members of which meet for the first time on January 12, is one of the first steps already taken towards reform.

One problem facing the market board is to reach an agreement on systems development. The market is very

fragmented, with Lloyd's underwriters using different systems. The market board also has the difficult task of trying to entice the market to use the new electronic placing system, currently hardly used.

Of equal importance, Mr Rowland stressed, is the treatment of names — past, present and future.

"The society hasn't perceived just how crucial names are. A culture change is needed in order to ensure that everything we do is for the benefit of the names. The interest of names takes precedence and we must very consistently re-emphasise this over the long term," said Mr Rowland.

To help with the historical problems facing names Mr Middleton has called upon the services of two management consultants.

Mercer Consulting is delving deep into the issue of open years, which occur when syndicates are unable to close their accounts because future claims cannot be quantified with certainty.

Another consultancy, LEK, is looking into the thorny and delicate issue of errors and omissions insurance (E&O), which covers managing and members' agents against claims for negligence. The issue is taking on increased importance as names on various loss-making syndicates, including Gooda Walker and Feltrin, are gearing up in readiness for a protracted court battle for compensation from their agents.

Japanese trade surplus at \$10.45bn peak and growing

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S balance of payments current account surplus was up nearly 50 per cent in November on a year earlier and likely to widen as long as the economic slowdown suppresses imports.

The finance ministry said the \$10.45 billion surplus in the current account, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, was the largest ever for November, although still below March 1992's \$13.79 billion record. In November 1991 the surplus was \$7.05 billion.

"We do not see any significant change in the trend in the trade surplus and we see the upturn continuing as long as the sluggish Japanese economy puts imports down," an economist at Nikko Research Centre said.

Economist agreed the surplus would keep widening until Japan's economy recovers and domestic demand and imports pick up. They see that happening in the latter half of 1993 at the earliest.

The government recently revised downwards its estimate of Japan's economic growth for the current fiscal year to 1.6 per cent from its earlier forecast of 3.5 per cent.

The expansion in the current account surplus reflected a jump in both the trade surplus and invisibles (services) surplus, a finance ministry official said. The trade surplus grew to \$9.65 billion in November from \$8.46 billion a year ago, but decreased from \$13.05 billion in October, the ministry said.

Japan exported \$26.49 billion worth of goods in November, up 0.7 per cent from the

same month the year before, while imports totalled \$16.83 billion, down 5.7 per cent from last year.

The November growth in exports was slow because manufacturers were using up this year's export quotas for the US and European markets, the Nikko economist said. "After January 1, we shall see exports showing a larger increase again," he said.

Trade in invisibles showed a \$1.15 billion surplus in November, because Japanese banks improved their position by paying less interest abroad while creditor banks received large payments from debtor nations such as Brazil, the ministry said.

In addition, fewer Japanese travelled abroad, narrowing the deficit in the tourism account.

The growing surplus is expected to be the target of continuing attacks by other countries, especially the US.

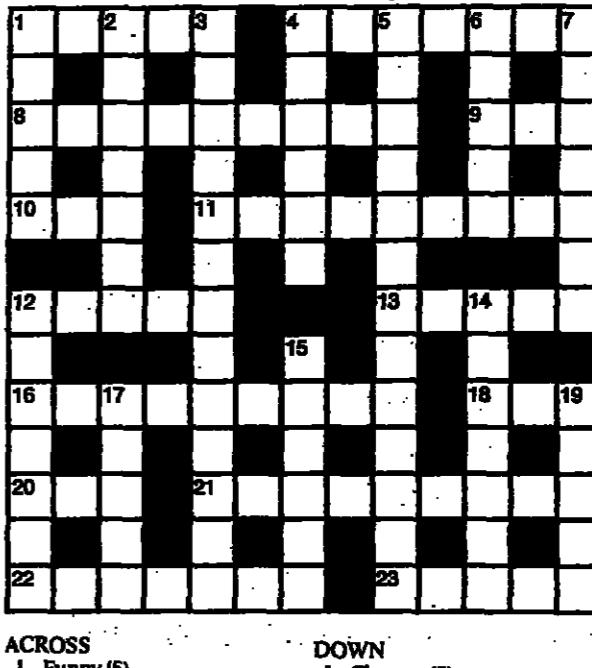
Tokyo's once-mighty stock market, plagued by a prolonged economic slowdown and gloom over the prospects for corporate earnings, looks set to post its lowest annual trading volume for 17 years.

Turnover on the market's first section up to the end of last week amounted to 65.1 billion shares — about a quarter of the 1991 volume — and the final figure for this year will likely be the lowest since 1975.

The total value of the shares traded so far was Y59 trillion (€310 billion), about half of last year's figure.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2982



ACROSS

- 1 Funny (5)
- 4 Discarded (7)
- 8 Train control point (6,3)
- 9 Gloom (3)
- 10 Animal pouch (3)
- 11 Supplesness (9)
- 12 Shop bargains period (5)
- 13 Exhaust (3,2)
- 16 Stand for (9)
- 18 Kitty (3)
- 20 Beer cask (3)
- 21 Essential force (4,5)
- 22 Peaceful, calm (7)
- 23 Race competitor (5)

DOWN

- 1 Charges (5)
- 2 Enchanted (7)
- 3 Methodist hymn writer (7,6)
- 4 Discuss (6)
- 5 Allowable expense (3,10)
- 6 Anchor area (5)
- 7 Assume disguise (5,2)
- 12 Prison sentence (7)
- 14 Utilize (7)
- 15 Overcome with noise (6)
- 17 Jury (5)
- 19 Now (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 2981

ACROSS: 1 Stakes 5 Behind 8 Claw 9 Monolith 10 Padiddle 12 Year 15 Victim 16 Bear 17 Cudgel 19 Ap-

DOWN: 2 Talkative 3 Kew 4 Symmetry 5 Bunk 6 Holly-

7 Not